

Sunday toll protest

AS THE various letters and editorials in your newspaper recently indicated, there clearly is widespread unhappiness and

anger at the proposed toll plaza on Chapmans Peak Drive, and the manner in which it was handled by MEC Robin Carlisle. And rightfully so!

After entering office, Carlisle promised to anyone prepared to listen that he was going to play hardball and sort this mess out once and for all.

Sadly, he dropped the ball in spectacular fashion. Giving the go-ahead for this expensive (R54 million is a lot in my books) private office block in one of the crown jewels of the Western Cape is staggering in its stupidity.

This will ensure that no future MEC will be able to reverse this situation.

To underline the good work he has done, he agreed to the cancellation of the free day passes as well!

Hout Bay is the only suburb in Cape Town with a fully integrated community with its own problems. We are aware of the challenges facing our community. That's why we all care about our town.

Rubber bullets in Hangberg and rubber stamps on Chappies are not the way to go. How about rubber bullets to Chappies and a R26m rubber stamp for Hangberg and Imizamo Yethu?

If you care for your mountain and believe it belongs to the people of this country, not to big business, bureaucrats or deal-making politicians, then join us on Sunday at 10am at the carpark across from Chapmans Peak Hotel. We will show what public participation means.

**SAM PELLISSIER
HOUT BAY**

Nuke Chappies road

ONE OF the ironies of the Chapman's Peak Drive debacle is that with today's (sometimes) more enlightened attitude towards the environment, permission would never be granted to build it at all.

As a former resident of Hout Bay and Kommetjie I had the privilege of uninterrupted views of the precious

mountain asset, but the blight of the road and degradation of the slopes were a constant source of dismay at the stupidity of early 20th Century politicians who clamoured for its construction.

There are other ways to see the mountains and seascapes of the South Peninsula and the road from Kommetjie, say, to the city is almost identical in length over Chapman's Peak as it is on the Blue Route (I know, I've measured it).

Cape Town is lumbered with the road until it finally becomes irreparable and slides into the sea, but this is no reason to continue to damage the mountain, and the office block proposal is enough to take one's breath away.

Entilini has managed so far with a temporary toll gate. Why not tidy it up and take its corporate swank somewhere else, like that other blot on the landscape, Century City? Entilini has hardly covered itself in glory. Seldom when I have visited Cape Town in recent years has the road been open, but Entilini continues to pocket taxpayers' money while sitting on its collective backside doing very little.

Sack Entilini, nuke the road and spend the money saved on trying to rehabilitate the mountain as far as is possible. Replace the road with a walking trail and anyone wanting to see that fabulous view can forget about doing so in leather-seated, air-conditioned luxury and invest in a pair of hiking boots.

**DIANA POWELL DOUGLAS
STILBAAI**

Doubting the DA

HENRIE Geyser is correct in his letter "Calling Zille" (Cape Times, January 18) about her deafening silence concerning the office block planned for Chapman's Peak. I have tried several times to contact Zille and Robin Carlisle, but to no avail.

Perhaps Zille needs to be reminded that it is her job to work for the people

who voted her into power instead of hiding in her Ivory Tower - perhaps that will be moved to Chapman's Peak?

I used to have confidence that the DA would always try to do the right thing. I now have doubts.

**ROGER SUMMERS
HERMANUS**