

Long Gully Bridge meeting leaves residents ``absolutely furious``

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A COMMUNITY meeting held last night by the RTA to inform people about plans for safety barriers on historic Long Gully Bridge resulted in ``absolutely furious`` residents walking out.

Willoughby Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney, who attended the meeting, said some people left when they realised the RTA representatives were not there to discuss alternatives, but to only tell people about their plans.

Did you attend the meeting? Comment below.

The meeting, held at St Mark's Hall at Northbridge, was open to all residents.

More than 120 people turned up, many hopeful that they were going to get the opportunity to present alternatives to the RTA's proposed design of a 3.3m curved steel safety barriers at the iconic bridge. [Read more.](#)

Cammeray resident Nicole Antonine said several architects attended to offer their own designs and expertise.

`` But it soon became pretty clear that the RTA was going to do whatever they were planning to do,`` she said.

`` As in the past, there was no consultation at all.``

The RTA representative said construction was scheduled for February next year, and the barrier was expected to be finished in May, according to Cr Giles-Gidney.

She said the RTA had also employed another security guard, as more suicide attempts were expected for summer.

Cr Giles-Gidney proposed a resolution which was passed saying the RTA has `` failed on several counts and demonstrated a contempt for the local community with its lack of consultation``.

`` The RTA should go back to consult the community about the design and look at other options, while security guards patrol the bridge,`` she said.

She said the RTA representatives closed the meeting at 9.30pm, despite more residents wanting to speak about the issue.

The State Government decided to install the barriers on the instruction of the State Coroner, who described the suspension bridge as a ``magnet for suicide attempts``.

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