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Scaled-down mosque in Swan Valley riles locals

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Scaled-down plans for a mosque have failed to quell anger in the Swan Valley, with locals to hold a public meeting against the proposal next week.

Swan Valley Progress Association spokesman Rod Henderson said residents were furious the mosque was again being considered by the City of Swan, a year after locals objected to the development in Smallbrook Retreat, Caversham.

The Bosnian Islamic Society's plan to build the \$4 million mosque has been bogged down since February last year after public advertising for the proposal received 139 objections.

The original plans for a 1277sqm mosque, complete with a 19m minaret, have been reduced by 40 per cent and include a smaller prayer hall, keeping the height to two storeys and moving the Imam's residence inside the main structure.

It was also moved further from neighbours to create a landscaped buffer zone.

But Mr Henderson said while the new proposal was slightly smaller in area, it still consumed all usable land and the minaret was now more than 22m high.

A public meeting would be held at 7pm on Tuesday at Caversham Hall to advise residents how to make submissions against the plan.

The Swan Valley Progress Association has consistently claimed a mosque does not fit within the character of the mostly tourist and horticultural area, which is protected by the Swan Valley Planning Act.

Bosnian Islamic Society president Sajit Smajic said his group had been invited to the meeting to answer questions and would be disappointed if the meeting was designed to help people lodge objections.