

Advocate Newspaper

## Community opposes plan

By CAITLIN HEATHCOTE

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THE war for the location of the town centre of Shearwater ramped up yesterday with members of the action group Save Our Seaside Village travelling to Hobart to meet with government officials and politicians.

The group, which comprises Shearwater small business owners and community members, is disgruntled over the Latrobe Council's proposal to move the town centre from Club Dr to Alexander St.

Spokesperson for the group Guy Barnett said the Latrobe Council was creating a "David and Goliath" type battle over the issue with negotiations continually failing to produce a win-win situation.

Mr Barnett said he spoke on behalf of the whole community of Shearwater which was vehemently opposed to any new town centre development.

"It's impossible for any small retailers to compete," Mr Barnett said.

"It's anti-competitive and denies any existing retailer the chance to grow and expand."

Mr Barnett said negotiations and meetings with politicians in Hobart had been promising and that the group had been pleased with the outcome of those meetings.

"We were very pleased with their responses," Mr Barnett said.

Mr Barnett said it was important to address that the group was not anti-development in the town but rather, more opposed to the fragmentation a new town centre would cause.

"We are not anti-development," Mr Barnett said.

"We support development in the existing town centre."

The issue looks to divide the municipality and negotiations are continuing.

Another meeting with the Latrobe Council is scheduled for December 3.