A MOVE by the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) to convert a plot of 5ha of restricted commercial zone at Section 12 into commercial zone did not go down well with city dwellers.

They claim that the city council was playing dirty by placing a small advertisement in an English daily to invite residents to express their views on the move to convert the status of the land.

Section 12 Petaling Jaya residents association president Datuk A. Narayanan said his association had sent a strong objection to the proposal and the manner in which the council was doing it.

He said the advertisement was very small and it had no details of the exact location of the land.

“We are fortunate to stumble upon the advertisement or else they would have quietly converted the land status,” he said.

Following the intervention of Subang Jaya assemblyman Hannah Yeoh and a few councillors, Narayanan said the city council had earlier rejected the project on grounds that it was a non-commercial area.

Yeoh said the matter was brought up by the residents association in the absence of the late Bukit Gasing assemblyman Edward Lee who passed away recently.

She said she had taken up the matter with the city council and had not received any explanation.

“We do not want the local authorities including the Petaling Jaya City Council to carry out land conversion without the knowledge of the residents. “I am not pleased to find out that the council did not carry out a proper survey before deciding to allow for the land conversion,” she said.

Yeoh said the residents were concerned that the project would cause a lot of social issues including traffic congestion, parking menace, cleanliness and security issues.

She said they preferred the land be used to provide the residents with public facilities such as recreational and community halls.

“We hope MBPJ will not do something that will rob the residents of their peace and serenity,” she added.