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Derelict property all cleaned up

Londiwe Pearl Xulu

Neighbours of the former magistrate's house on the corner of Bell Street were thrilled last week when a full crew arrived from the Department of Public Works (in Durban) to clear the abandoned property that has become a haven for criminals and vagrants. It was also massively overgrown and filled with rubbish.

The team told *Village Talk* they had been assigned to clean up the property after numerous complaints from the public. "The house was filled with

rubbish and the garden was very overgrown, with grass long enough that these criminals could easily hide in it," said one of the workers Mjay Gumede.

Mkhulusi Security Company, assigned from last September to guard the property, said they had hoped their presence here would help reduce the rate of crime in the area.

"These criminals try to sneak into the property so they can jump through the hedges into the neighbouring properties to steal," said one of the security guards. "Earlier this month, we also had them trying

to sneak into this house while we were guarding it!"

He said they really wished the SAPS would play a role in monitoring the area, and the house.

"It would be good if they carried out more frequent patrols here. Unfortunately, the neighbours seem to think there's a relationship between us and these thugs," he said.

On seeing the clean-up crew vigorously clearing the property, one neighbour said they were very happy with the progress, and that hopefully it would mean less crime in the area.