

Victory for Waterloo



■ Blackened, burnt, broken, with no more thatch.

KAREN WATKINS

After months of angst, the two heritage houses on Waterloo Green in Wynberg finally have security guards (“Big woes at Waterloo,” Bulletin April 20 2017).

On Monday February 26, the Bulletin found two security guards watching over the vandalised, broken, burnt remains of these once magnificent homes.

The tar in the road was still wet from where the City’s water officials had turned off the tap earlier that day, according to one of the guards. He said a team from the national Department of Public Works (DPW) had viewed the property a few days before.

The Bulletin learnt of the changes after a sector briefing meeting at Wynberg police station hosted by station commander, Brigadier Nokuthula Mzila.

Local architect Nic Louw has been fighting to save the houses for over a year. They had deteriorated to such an extent that one of them caught fire at about 5am on Thursday November 2 last year, when the thatched roof was

destroyed.

The neighbouring Victorian house once had shutters at the windows and is surrounded by knee-high grass hiding mounds of litter and a breeding ground for rats.

Sergeant Abdul-Gakeen Laubscher said the houses had been a haven for vagrants and criminals.

There have been numerous arrests there, the most recent on Thursday February 22 when one woman and two men were arrested. The previous week a man was caught burning copper there and he was arrested for theft and trespassing.

● Captain Charles Petersen, of Wynberg Sector 1, said drug-related crime continued to be a major issue.

Sector 1 covers Riverstone Road to Constantia Main Road between the railway line and Waterloo Road. Over the past seven days, he said, they had made 24 arrests including two well-known drug dealers who operated in Main Road.

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