

KENILWORTH | MOWBRAY

Solution to vagrancy

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The issue of vagrancy has been the talk of the town for over a year in most suburbs, but could soon be a thing of the past.

The City of Cape Town had tried to calm the situation by giving people advice on how to handle homeless people on their doorstep.

Ratepayers and residents have repeatedly voiced their concerns and uncertainty about people sleeping anywhere at any time, and they have called on the City to establish better ways of reducing the number of vagrants in the streets.

The most affected areas in the southern suburbs include Kenilworth, Harfield, Mowbray, Lansdowne, Athlone, Grassy Park, Wynberg, Constantia, Plumstead, Cape Town CBD and Woodstock, among many others.

However, this problem could soon be a thing of the past for some affected areas as the City has set aside R5m to create a safe space facility for the homeless under the Culemborg Bridge.

According to a report, the City has completed the tender process for the operator of the safe space, who has now been appointed.

The facility is expected to accommodate 230 people per night. According to the City

it will be operational in June this year.

Councillor JP Smith says the facility will be accessible to its beneficiaries strictly from 17:00 to 08:30 every day. Each person will be allowed to stay for a duration of four months.

“This is a transitional space – it is not a shelter. A client will be able to stay at the transitional space for up to four months. The City’s Social Development and Early Childhood Development Department, via its Street People Reintegration Unit, will assess clients for the safe space.

“We are currently busy with preparations to ready the site for operation during June.”

He says the City’s Social Development and

Early Childhood Development Department intends to pilot this temporary safe space as a transitional measure to assist homeless people in the Central Business District.

Smith says benefits will include access to a secure space to sleep, access to social services and basic services such as ablutions, water and storage lockers.

He further explains that through this project, the City aims to provide social intervention services to street people who will be accommodated in order to facilitate reintegration into mainstream communities and provide health referral services to street people who use the space.

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