

Editorial comment

Paarl Post

Something is at long last being done

Sanddrift Sports Stadium, in the heart of Paarl, has been a blot on the landscape for a very long time.

Paarl Post has reported on the dire state of the stadium and the conditions surrounding it for many years now.

Not only has the stadium in its entirety been vandalised almost beyond recognition, but it has also through the years become home to vagrants and dodgy characters. Because of this, residents in the area have been plagued by burglaries and other crimes. Schoolchildren from a nearby school have also been harassed when walking to and from school.

The appeal from the community to have the authorities pay attention to cleaning up and clearing out the stadium has for a very long fallen on deaf ears. Especially the national Department of Public Works, under whose auspices the stadium falls, has blatantly ignored correspondence about the state and future of the stadium.

For a long time too, the Drakenstein Municipality also just passed the buck, by claiming it was not its property, and could therefore not intervene in securing the area.

But now, owing to public pressure, the municipality has eventually taken the bull by the horns, and could be dragging government departments before a court of law to have the future of the stadium sorted out.

First prize would be for the stadium to be handed over to Drakenstein, which has a rich cultural sports tradition, and renovated it to be used by the communities who do not have sporting facilities, such as the nearby school.

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