

House declared a 'problem'

Maryke Swart

A dilapidated house on the corner of Andries Pretorius and Jubilee streets in Somerset West has finally been declared a problem building.

DistrictMail has reported on the abandoned house, owned by the Department of Public Works (DPW), following several complaints by residents of vagrants illegally occupying the home and alleged criminal activities and other disturbances occurring there (“Move to declare derelict house a ‘problem’”, 19 October 2017).

The house has been vacant since October 2016.

Richard Bosman, the City of Cape Town’s executive director for Safety and Security, earlier said council’s Problem Building Unit (PBU) issued the department with a contravention notice for failing to comply with earlier notices served regarding the problem house (“City to take legal action over ‘eyesore’”, *DistrictMail*, 4 October 2018).

The PBU has since declared the property a problem building.

According to Bosman, DPW now has to issue an eviction order to remove the vagrants from the house.

“The PBU does not carry out evictions, as only the owner of the property has the authority to request an eviction order,” he explained, referring any further



The dilapidated house on the corner of Jubilee and Andries Pretorius streets has officially been declared a problem building. Photo: Jamey Gordon

enquiries to the DPW.

In response to *DistrictMail*’s inquiry, DPW spokesperson Thami Mchunu confirmed an eviction order had not yet been issued.

“The occupants’ details will need to be obtained before submitting a request for eviction,” he explained.

Mchunu added that once the eviction had been carried out, the property would be offered to other departments for their own purposes. “Should the property be accepted by a client department, the house will be renovated prior to occupation,” he said.

Mchunu couldn’t comment on projected time frames for resolving the issue.