

# Thank you

John Holtzhausen,  
Wynberg

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Thank you for highlighting the plight of Wynberg residents who are being held to ransom by vagrants living in two derelict and condemned Department of Public Works (DPW) houses in Waterloo Green and preying on residents of the area (“Derelict Houses a headache”, Bulletin, January 24.)

Sadly the situation at the Waterloo houses and on the field in Cavan (Road) has not changed – and again last week a vulnerable resident was forced to open a case after police arrested vagrants – squatting in the houses – who had burgled her home.

We have asked ward councillor Liz Brunette to prepare an action plan to submit to council. We are calling for fencing off the open property to reduce the crime and the very real health risk.

The canal running through the property is currently used as an open latrine with the filthy, stinky sewage water passing through our properties as well as the Simon van der Stel school and filling the dam (a popular picnic spot) in Maynardville Park.

On Friday February 15, vagrants were seen passing Wynberg Girls’ School gate in Cavan – one armed with a knife in his back pocket – returning from the canal to collect water. I sincerely hope that we do not have to wait for someone to be stabbed or a Wynberg school pupil attacked before action is taken.

● Jan Kruger of the

City’s media office said the enquiry should be directed to the national Department of Public Works as they are the owners of the property.

With regard to the safety situation, the South African Police Service should be approached as the primary crime prevention authority.

The Bulletin sent enquiries to both but they did not respond by the time of going to print.