

UNDERGROUND SEEPAGE

Underground water causing problems

MONIQUE BASSON

UNDERGROUND water seeping through the newly upgraded Kouga Ford in Humansdorp, causing severe damage to the building, appears to be worsening by the day.

The water seeps through paving, walls and floors - resulting in structural damage.

According to owner Gerrit Potgieter, who has been complaining to the Kouga Municipality for years, now considers taking steps against the municipality should the ongoing problem not be addressed in the near future.

Potgieter says, "Hundreds of litres of water run from across the street, underneath the tar road to our building. The soil is already so saturated that the water bubbling through the floors and walls.

"A small portion of the water that runs above the ground, ends up in the stormwater drain - but this is no better. No one knows what is in the brown, sludgy water. The water then ends up in the two nearby dams."

Infrastructure and Engineering Portfolio Councillor Freddy Campher says the bulk of the water comes from springs above the silos situated across the road of Kouga Ford.

According to an informed source, the water might be coming from nearby businesses, however, this still needs to be confirmed.

"The water travels across land that belongs to Transnet, and the municipality has been unable to obtain permission from them to work on their land."

According to Campher, one solution is to dig a trench to help drain and divert water. "The municipality cannot, however, do this without Transnet's permission. All attempts to secure permission and the necessary authorisation from them, has thus



Underground water coming from springs above the silos situated across the road of Kouga Ford in Humansdorp, is seeping through the newly upgraded building - causing severe damage. It is unclear what is in the brown, sludgy water.

PHOTOS: MONIQUE BASSON

far been unsuccessful.

"We are now looking at the possibility of laying a pipe across the land to redirect the water towards the stormwater canals in Voortrekker Road. This is, however, a provincial road and we would first need permission from the District Engineer from the East Cape Department of Roads and Public Works.

"This engagement is currently underway."

Another thorn in the flesh is the derelict building across the road and the overgrown bushes and grass.

According to Potgieter, the building is a breeding ground for criminal activities: murder (three in the last year), the selling of drugs and the burning of stolen copper wire.

"Not to mention the filth and smell. If a light breeze is blowing, we cannot open a window - the stench is unbearable."

"Should the municipality demolish the building, I will take it upon myself to keep the area clean."

Campher says, "We have discussed the possible demolition of the building with Transnet, but they indicated that they may have other plans for the building."



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