

Residents unhappy about sinkhole

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A Centurion sinkhole which formed in March last year is still not fixed. Now locals want to hold a peaceful protest to highlight their frustrations.

“We have submitted an urgent written request to embark on a protest march to address the issues surrounding sinkholes in Valhalla,” said local business owner Shereen Tayob.

“As residents we have been very patient with council but it seems we need to voice our grievances more vociferously and publicly.”

Stephanus Schoeman Road towards the R55 was closed in March last year, after several sinkholes formed as a result of heavy rainfall.

The road was often used by Valhalla residents as a thoroughfare to Laudium.

“We continue to be forced to make use of alternate routes to Laudium which are time-consuming. And some of them are in a state,” said Tayob.

“One road in particular, nearby Voortrekker Road, is riddled with potholes. You literally drive like you are avoiding landmines when using the road.

“The detour has extended our travelling time and costs significantly and frustration levels are high as we are forced to travel through the Voortrekkerhoogte military base where we are subjected to random



Valhalla residents are planning a protest over the sinkhole in Stephanus Schoeman Road. Pictured here are Farida Cassim, Ridhuan Cassim and Shereen Tayob (right).

boot searches.”

Tayob said what was once a short trip of about eight minutes had now been prolonged to over 20 minutes.

“The sinkhole has taken a toll on our businesses as well. I have lost a lot of customers because of this.

“We are busy delivering our letter to the proper office bearers to either begin with repairs immediately before the festive season or we will have no alternative but to protest.”

She said the coming rainy season would not help the situation and might in fact make matters worse.

“All we are asking is that our concerns be taken seriously and that something gets done

about this sinkhole.”

A date and time for the protest has yet to be determined.

Residents previously highlighted other issues including safety concerns and illegal dumping in the area.

Despite the road being cordoned off, some motorists continue to circumvent the barriers.

Resident Sameera Khan told *Rekord* it appeared some were using the closed road for dumping.

“Because the road is not being used, it appears some are travelling on the road in order to dump there.”

The public works and infrastructure department previously said it was attempting to find out to whom the road belongs.

“Repairing the sinkhole is a process and we need to know who owns the road before work can begin,” department spokesperson Thami Mchunu said.