

Red tape keeps road closed

Heather Walker

A red tape comedy of errors is keeping Park Road in Birnam closed.

"It appears we were waiting for Joburg Property Company (JPC) to approve the permanent closure of Delta Street, but several e-mails and documents were lost.

"Now JPC has the documents, and the process should soon be complete. I have also requested the road closures at Lymington Avenue and Ladbroke Lane to be removed," said councillor Ray Wolder. Park Road was completed in January but was still barricaded.

Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) said this was because traffic lights needed to be installed. The lights have now been installed but are not operating. Motorist Yousuf Karrim believed Park Road was an inefficient design that would cause more congestion. "The problem here, as is in many other instances in Joburg, is too many intersections close to one another. There is a more efficient way this can be done. I forwarded this to JRA two years ago before construction of this road began. "But as usual it fell on deaf ears. Corlett

Drive requires widening. "Also, several side roads and parts of Atholl Oaklands Drive could be used for parking by making them one-ways."

Brenda Riesnik, principal of Birnam College in Corlett Drive, said the situation had become unbearable. "The closure of Delta Street to create Park Road forced more traffic onto the already congested Corlett Drive and Atholl Oaklands Road. Now it backs up all the way down Corlett Drive at peak hour. One of our students was knocked down by a taxi speeding for a gap in the gridlock. This area has a major traffic problem and it's affecting the whole business node. Riesnik said Fort Street, which ran parallel to Corlett Drive, had become much busier.

"Many motorists are rat-running at dangerous speeds down there to avoid the congestion, and it's a matter of time before an accident happens. Fairways primary school is in this street and a pupil could be run over - speed bumps are needed."

heatherw@caxton.co.za

Are you affected? Talk about it at www.joburgnorth.womf.com or SMS NETE2 with your comment to 32690. SMSes cost R1.