

Public safety is back on track

FED-UP residents are celebrating the power of public opinion after an angry campaign pushed Monash Council into making hasty repairs at a sports ground last week.



Picture: STEVEN CRABTREE N06WG510

Vince Boyle and Doug Jenkins waited for months to see the path fixed.

Hundreds of basketball players and families who use Waverley Basketball Centre, at Batesford Reserve, became "irate" at the state of a muddy, slippery and unsafe path from the carpark to the stadium, after months of repeated requests to the council.

But after many complaints last week and inquiries by this newspaper, the temporary path received a fresh layer of gravel to counter the uneven "quagmire", Malvern Tigers Basketball Club membership officer Doug Jenkins said.

Despite delays since an email in March confirming the gravel would be laid, he congratulated the council for finally acting to make the path safe.

"We had elderly people and mothers hanging on to the fence to get through the quagmire," Mr Jenkins said.

"But since then (the council) has done all the right things. It's great news for the community."

Significant construction at Batesford Reserve for its hub project was the cause of the temporary path along the boundary of the oval, which has also raised issues with lighting and a lack of parking. Monash Mayor Charlotte Baines said parking issues would be resolved once construction was completed.

"We understand when construction occurs it's not easy . . . but we really encourage residents to have patience with us, and remember that it's for a long-term gain," she said.



Work should be completed by Christmas.

