



Hennur residents are gasping for breath

BWSSB dug up 3 major roads in area and has not restored them

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The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) dug up three major roads in Hennur to lay water and sewage lines. The utility, however, has not restored them for the last one year, local residents including, students said. Some of them have also complained of respiratory illness due to the dusty roads.

The roads that are in bad condition include a 2-km stretch between Hennur and K Narayanapura Road, a stretch leading to Kothanur Road and another stretch from Kothanur to Hegde Nagar Road. The locals, besides starting an online petition

to restore the road, have raised multiple complaints but the problem continues to haunt the road users.

"The BWSSB dug up the road to lay pipes and the area is always engulfed in dust.

"The prolonged exposure to dust pollution has affected the well-being of all, including pedestrians, students, auto drivers and shopkeepers," said Dr. Juby Thomas, a faculty at Kristu Jayanti College, who uses the road regularly.

Last Saturday, a group of students organised a symbolic protest to raise awareness about the poor condition of roads at K Narayanapura Cross. They also distributed free face masks to street vendors and security guards.

"We are hearing complaints related to skin allergy and eye

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—Juby Thomas, commuter years

infection. Several doctors in the area also mentioned that there is an alarming increase in the cases of sickness caused by dust pollution among the residents," a student, who participated in the campaign, said.

Over the last five years, the

BWSSB has taken up extensive work worth several crores, related to laying new water and sewage lines in the erstwhile 110 villages, which were brought under the it in 2007.

As no separate land has been acquired for these lines, the BWSSB has been digging up roads on both sides of the road, one for the water pipes and the other for sewage lines.

Simultaneously, even the core of Bengaluru has been also affected due to BWSSB's work as old pipelines are replaced with new. Due to slow progress, there is a constant complaint related to dusty roads and delay in restoration. When BM reached out to BWSSB for a comment on the poor condition of roads in Hennur, the officials were unavailable.