

Written Account: Heygate Resident - Dylan Parfitt



I used to live at no. 207 Ashenden until I was pressurised and given an unreasonable deadline to leave my home in 2008.

Myself and other residents agreed to move only upon signing a legal document giving us the right to return to new homes on the Heygate site when they were built.

So I was shocked when I learned that the Heygate masterplan proposes just 79 social rented homes for former residents to return to, and that these will all be 3 bedroom units. I live on my own so I won't qualify and therefore won't be able to return to the new Heygate as I was promised.

When I signed the right to return agreement there was no mention of any restrictions on the type of flats that would be made available. I didn't want to move out from the Heygate, I wanted to remain. If I had known that they were going to apply this restriction to the agreement then I would never have agreed to

move out. I thought I had signed a binding agreement and all along I assumed that I would be able to return to the Heygate; now I feel like I have been deceived.

My flat on the Heygate was much better than the flat I occupy now, which is much smaller and the heating doesn't work properly. My Heygate flat was spacious with large windows and lots of sunlight. I lived on the 10th floor with a great view over the City and St. Paul's.

Myself and many other former Heygate residents have moved to inferior accommodation, thinking that we would have the right to return to brand new homes when the new flats were built. Now this will never materialise – we have been deceived. The council has been unscrupulous since the outset of the regeneration in everything they have done. This whole scheme has been a shambolic act of deception on a grand scale.

