

Frank & Liz Joseph Residents, 1973 – 2007

Liz Joseph: We moved into number 32 Cuddington in 1973. We lived there for 8 years and then we moved downstairs to number 21 when we had our third child.

We knew all of our neighbours when we moved onto the estate because we all came from the same area. We were all moved together from the area where the Newington estate now is – Danson rd, Pasley rd, Braganza street.

We knew Rose & Dennis who moved in just up there, next to that there was Maureen & Eddie, and then up the top was Arthur. The neighbours at number 22 we didn't know when we moved in, but we became really good friends. If their mother wasn't home the kids would knock at my door and they would say to me "do you know where mum is Liz?". I would tell them to come in and if I had food ready I would sit them down, that's how close we were. The kids were very upset when I left and I was upset too - I did my own crying after the kids left. I didn't want to move out of here and why should we?

We were very happy here until the council announced that the estate would be demolished. Everybody started panicking, we were very sad and upset. I was brought up in this area and it was all I knew. My family has been here since 1955 and all my friends are here. I really didn't like having to move away. We couldn't buy anything with the money we got from the council for our home, so we had to move to Sidcup which is 10 miles away. Its too far for me to be travelling all the time, sometimes 2 or 3 times a week.

Where I am now I don't like it, I would come back tomorrow if I could. People all looked after each other here: our children would play together and if I was doing something indoors then the other mothers would look out, they would call me if my children

hurt themselves, and I would do the same for them. But where I am now it is not like that, people hardly talk to you round there. That's why I say I would come back tomorrow if I could.

It's very sad to see the place like this, to see the state of it. That was my garden and look at it now. I used to have my garden nice, it's sad seeing it in this state. The work I used to put into it and look at it now.



Over there at number 5 is where my friend Rena lived. My daughter was very close friends with her daughter. She lives in St. John's wood now. It's too far away and we don't see each other often. It's sad because she can't travel a lot as she is getting old, and with my health I can't travel much either. We grew up together and now this has broken us up, it's very sad. Now we are getting to the point where we need one another more because we are getting old.

I think what made me move was when she was moving. Then we decided you know we have got to get out of here, because if we didn't do it then we would have to have done it now. And why did we have to move out? we don't know. What was wrong with the places for them to want to knock it down? There was nothing wrong with them. The flats are a good size, nice big kitchen, decent size front room, decent size bedrooms – we were happy here.

It has had a big affect on me, I have been very ill. And it has been more difficult with me being ill and not having my friends around me and my family. Especially with my husband being at work all day and I am on my own it makes it even harder. It is very sad that we had to move out of here.