



An old lady fights to keep home she loves

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EMILY DODDS (pictured) came to live in Tolmers Square when she was nine years old. She's 76 now, and has spent the last few years in the crossfire of the great property battle between Joe Levy and Camden Council. And now "they" want her to move to a brand new council flat — but she's not going.

The sad thing is that Mrs Dodds is one of the long standing residents of the square and the surrounding streets who were on a hiding to nothing whoever won the battle. Whoever wins — and the odds appear to be in the favour of the council at the moment — it's likely that the house that's been home for Mrs Dodds for 30 of her 67 years in the square will be done up, which means she'll have to go.

Whoever wins, in fact, she

will have to quit her home, and at the moment, as the council plan the early transfer of long standing tenants from the square to the new council flat ~~round~~ ^{round} the corner in Netley ~~street~~ there seems to be a remarkable degree of co-operation between the arch enemies, Stock Conversion and the council over the transfer operation.

So far, though, Mrs Dodds has stuck to her guns. She went round at the council's invitation to see the flat she could move into. "I've turned it down. I don't want to move," she told the Journal on Tuesday. "I want to stay here.

"I'll have to pay near enough £10 a week rent and I don't like flats. I like it here, in this house."

While she thinks about that, letters pass between her landlords Stock Conversion and the council. Will you let us know, Stock Conversion ask the council, when you intend to move our tenants to your new flats so that we can make the arrangements for securing the properties against illegal occupiers?

Eventually Mrs Dodds home will be done up. The neglect of years—her home was deteriorating as the battle of words and CPOs raged — will be righted, either by the council or Stock Conversion.

But it won't be for Mrs Dodds. "I suppose deep down, I know I'll have to go. But I'm going to stick it out as long as I can."