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Mayfair squatters resist

By our own Reporter

Barricades were erected by squatters in Mayfair last night in preparation for the expected arrival of bailiffs this morning.

Thirty squatters, including families with children, have been occupying seven expensive new flats, which overlook the Ritz Hotel since early March. The flats, which are in Dover Street and are all well furnished, are owned by Brompton Securities.

One of the squatters said yesterday that the barricades were intended to show the bailiffs, if they turn up, that it will not be easy to eject them. "If they want to get us out peacefully, they will have to offer us other accommodation at their own expense," he said.

Residents in Drummond Street, Camden, have taken over an empty plot of land on the corner of Drummond Street and Coburg Street and intend to turn it into a play space for children with a community garden. The residents' association said yesterday that the site had been left empty for some time, and in spite of requests to the owners, Connollys (Blackley) Ltd, permission to use the land temporarily for community use had been refused.

Last night Mr Frank Dobson, leader of Camden Council, said that the council hoped to acquire the site which the residents took over yesterday, and the provisional plans for the land include a community hall and open space.