



Wates

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Rita, Erith Park leaseholder

Retiree Rita first moved into Larner Road 21 years ago from Belvedere and has lived in South London all her life. She currently lives in Sara House, one of the remaining tower blocks which will be torn down during the second phase of the Erith Park regeneration. She lives on the 14th floor and loves the panoramic view she has of the Thames and Dartford Bridge. In 2003 she had the opportunity to buy her home via the Right to Buy scheme and is now the leaseholder of her apartment.

When plans for the regeneration of Larner Road were first announced, Rita was initially very upset. She was quite settled in her home and had everything setup just the way she liked it. In 2012, she decided to join the Resident Core Group so that she could learn more about the project and have her say in how plans would be shaped. Not only did she get to see all of the plans as they were being developed and influence key decisions that were being made, but she also made friends who she still keeps in touch with today. As she became more involved, her mindset started to change and eventually she gained a whole new outlook about the transformation of the community.

Rita remains a leaseholder at Erith Park. We spoke to her just before she moved into her new home, and this is what she said:

“ My new apartment has a lovely veranda and I'll still have a wonderful view of the Thames and Dartford Bridge. I really like the different styles of the new homes, they're more interesting and modern. I'm also happy that I get to stay in the community I love, close to local transport and all the shops. I go to the gym and swimming every week, so it will be nice to remain close to the local leisure centre. I can't wait to move in! ”



Pictured is Rita as she reads a poem at the demolition event for the old Larner Road tower blocks.