

case study

Delighted couple escape trouble-ridden housing block

A retired couple are thrilled with their new home following years living in a trouble-ridden housing block in Stanwell, Middlesex.

Mrs Carole Hayles, 64, and her husband, David, 71, lived in the notorious Livingstone Court for 13 years when they were contacted by the local council who were looking to demolish the block and re-house the residents as part of the New Start regeneration project.

Carole said: "The block we were living in had a very bad reputation and there was trouble there all the time – drug dealers and police raids – not a nice place to live.

"We were told that, within reason, we could request any type of home we wanted so we put our names down for a house. We didn't think we'd get one though as we are of a certain age and were living in a flat at the time. As you can imagine, we were over the moon when we found out we had got one!"

The couple moved into their two-bedroom house at Lord Knyvetts Court in November 2008 and they couldn't be happier with their new home.



Carole explained: "Our new place is marvellous! The area is lovely and very convenient for us as it is on four bus routes and within walking distance of the main shops. We are also much closer to our eldest son now who also lives on the estate."

They are also enjoying having a very different type of neighbour to what they were used to.

Carole said: "Compared to the previous area we lived in, there is a lovely community spirit here. The houses back onto communal areas, making it quite a social place to be. Everyone seems very friendly and our neighbours came round with welcome cards when we first moved in which was nice.

"I really think the renovation of Stanwell is a good idea as the area definitely needs it. Hopefully, by building more houses rather than flats, we can start to move away from some of the troubles that have spoiled this area in the past."

[Ends]



■ Photographs

Available on request.

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■ Notes to Editors

1. The Housing Corporation approved the merger between A2 Housing Group and Dominion Housing Group in July 2008. The new **A2Dominion Group** officially launched on 1 October 2008.

With over 30,000 homes in management and thousands more in the development pipeline, the Group is one of the country's leading developers of affordable housing.

Visit www.a2dominion.co.uk for more information.