

DON'T EVICT MARITZA

DEMONSTRATE

6PM • WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY • LAMBETH TOWN HALL



Maritza Tschepp has been living in her home in Stockwell for 33 years. Like most of the houses in the area, it was in a terrible state when she moved in. But she has run a new water main, re-plumbed and re-wired it, rebuilt structural walls, replaced the roof, and replaced or restored all the windows. She has also done the decorating and worked in the garden, landscaping and planting trees, shrubs and vegetables.

As a result of her efforts, the house has gone from being worth a few thousand to many hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Maritza has also invested in her local community by setting up and running, as an unpaid volunteer for over 20 years, a local cooperative youth group, which takes scores of young people from Lambeth on camps, visits and activities. She is also a volunteer for another youth charity which uses winter-sports as a catalyst to raise aspirations amongst young people.

Maritza's home is one of a number of houses in Lambeth that were compulsory purchased for demolition for a few thousand pounds in the 1970s and then left empty. The council has not invested any money in repairs or maintenance since.

Eventually the council allowed 'shortlife' co-ops to be set up, run by the people who were occupying and maintaining the houses. However, Lambeth has stood aside from these co-ops, always promising and then pulling back from a settled arrangement. Every attempt has been made to set up a permanent co-operative housing model but each time the council has lost interest in the deal. Lambeth has no acknowledgement of the blood, sweat and tears of the 'short lifers', who saved these homes from dereliction. No concern about keeping people in homes and communities where they have lived for years.

Don't let the Cooperative Council evict Maritza's family from their housing coop
DEMONSTRATE: 6pm, Wednesday 29th January, Lambeth Town Hall