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### **Street Fighters**

#### **Guy Griffiths, Broughton, Salford**

It looks pretty much like a war zone...if you see something, like from the rock n roll years in the '60s demolitions - it looks like that, but the only difference is that it's in colour.

Regeneration started in 1994, they talked about it. They came in with Single Regeneration Budget money [EU funding] in 1995. Before that, probably a typical terraced street in Salford - fully occupied, nice area. In the first stage they demolished what, about 170 houses, something like that, and in this phase there was 240. They got a CPO [Compulsory Purchase Order] and they give you a date to go or when they want you out by, and they basically sent the bailiffs in - it wasn't on the date that they said - physically evicted me and charged me £1,000 for the pleasure of being evicted from my own house.

My brother was actually the first person in the country - as far as I'm aware - to be evicted for a Pathfinder [Housing Market Renewal scheme] area. After that, after many years, my brother went to a tribunal and he got £52,000, which....the only thing that £52,000 would actually buy you is another house that's coming down, and that can't be right.

I mean, from my point of view, I'm fighting now for myself and fighting for money, but it's not just about money. It's about what's right and wrong and surely it's got to be wrong if the people who are supposed to benefit are the ones who actually end up losing out.

I was actually born in a house about 500 yards up the road. My parents were CPO-ed in the '60s. You know, they're supposed to be looking after the likes of me - they're supposed to be looking after the working class, and they come in, take your house off you...you know, it's like the people here, they were told it was for their benefit. Now they used to own a house...now they own about a third of a house, possibly half of a house.