

## *Six fear eviction*

Times-Herald April 30, 1976

**SIX elderly residents of riverside caravans at Willow Way, Christchurch, will face eviction and the loss of their homes if Bournemouth County Court allows their landlord's application for orders of repossession of the sites.**

The six—two couples and two unmarried ladies — all live at Swan Green, owned by Cmdr. Michael Wallrock, who wants the site for part of a development of "luxury" holiday homes being built in the area. He is the proprietor of Tuckton Riverside Services, who administer the site.

The six have been unable to find alternative sites for their caravans because site owners tell them leases for sites are only offered to those willing to buy a new caravan from them.

The six have sunk most of their life savings into caravans which might shortly be without a site, and thus worth very little.

Swan Green is on land that since 1971 has been zoned for recreational use — and in 1972 the planning authorities refused to renew a temporary residence permit.

Christchurch Council's housing department has told them there is little chance that they will be offered council houses. On Wednesday their plight was discussed in secret by the housing committee.

### DEGREES

Attempts by the housing department to find site owners willing to accommodate them have so far failed, but the committee decided they couldn't be offered any more help than is given to other people facing homelessness. Housing officer Mr. Michael Storey said afterwards: "The committee felt it would be wrong to select these people for special treatment. It is difficult to identify degrees of homelessness."

Mrs. Lilian Ralph told the "Times": "We're all over 60 years old, and at our age we won't be able to get a mortgage."

Added Mrs. Veronica Walters: "I was told when I came to the site it was permanent and that I would leave it when I was carried out in a wooden box."

Pensioner Miss Winifred Clark said: "We've all been going to the doctors for months, we're so scared of what might happen to us. I can't sleep anymore."

Christchurch social services director Mr. Pat Morgan said: "If at the end of the day there are six people without a home they can certainly approach us.

"But what the help would be we cannot say until we know their individual circumstances. They would get exactly the same treatment as any other homeless family."

Mrs. Rose Baker told the Times she had lived at the site since June 1973. "My contention is that when I moved into this site I was told it would be permanent."

This claim was repeated by the other residents at the site. The case comes up at Bournemouth County Court on June 8. The solicitor acting for them, Christchurch Councillor Street told the Times.

"If an order for possession is made, I anticipate this may become effective sometime in August. My clients will be considering bringing an action against Tuckton Riverside Services arising out of circumstances surrounding the original grant of the site licence and the sale of the caravans to them."

Cmdr. Wallrock was this week unavailable and his solicitors, Mills and Bennett of Bournemouth, declined to comment.