

Residents angry over Markets 'wall'

RESIDENTS in the lower Markets area of Belfast are unhappy about a 10-foot high fence which has just been erected around the East Bridge Street — Cromac Street area.

One man is convinced that the fence has been built with the blessing of the security forces, as it will make the area easier to monitor — with fewer exit and entrance roads.

The Housing Executive, however, points out that the fence was built by contractors working on 54 new homes in the redevelopment area.

Phase three of the Markets Redevelopment Scheme has just started. The 54 new homes are being built at a cost of £1.3m.

The site contractors erected the fence to protect machinery and materials from vandalism and theft.

But some people are angry at the inconvenience the fence will cause. It blocks off the roads and pedestrian ways on to East Bridge

Street and means people can only get on to Cromac Street via Eliza Street.

The fence will be removed when the new houses are completed — late in 1982 — and pedestrian ways will then be available to the residents.

But local man, Mr. Henry Stitt, is convinced that the fence, and even the design of the new houses and roads, has the blessing of the security forces.

He claimed the houses and road system were designed and planned in consultation with the security forces to eliminate the number of slip roads in and out of the Lower Markets area.

But the Housing Executive denied this. A spokesman pointed out that the local people were involved in the planning and design from the early stages.