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More than 150 residents in the vicinity of 103 Fisher Street in Fullarton celebrated the start of the demolition of the derelict Julia Farr building at a “demolition street party” on Thursday 10 February. There were loud cheers when a 160-ton excavator, the largest in Australia, started bringing down the building which has become a haven for vandals and graffiti artists over the past five years.

Living Choice has received approval from Unley City Council to build a 189-unit retirement village on the site. Director Graham Hobbs, said the commencement of demolition marked the beginning of a new, safer era for residents. “It also heralds a new standard of retirement living in Adelaide.”

“In other parts of Australia Living Choice has an excellent reputation for creating upmarket villages in desirable locations. In Sydney, the Sunshine Coast and Central Coast we have forged strong ties with local residents and support many of their community events. We are looking forward to bringing this standard of retirement living to Adelaide - and we are looking forward to supporting the Fullarton community.”

Living Choice director Ian Tregoning was personally involved in navigating the development approval through council over the past five years. “We had many setbacks but we are confident the development will be welcomed by not only nearby residents but retirees looking for location, luxury and lifestyle. There will also be 24-hour on-site care, emergency response buttons and medical rooms for visiting practitioners.”

Mr Tregoning said the demolition process would take until the end of April, after which detailed engineering work would commence. “It is hoped that construction will start within 12 months,” he said.

The party was a festive affair with residents and VIPs enjoying a BBQ, drinks and entertainment. Living Choice ambassador John Wood caused a stir when he arrived at the party in a bright yellow 1935 Ford Roadster. Earlier, a large media contingent arrived at the site to interview the veteran TV and stage star and film the monster excavator at work. McMahon Services took delivery of the \$3-million excavator from the United States late last year and the Fisher Street building was its first job in Australia.

Chris Latham, Demolition and Operations Manager, said the excavator had a reach of up to 45 metres and was ideal for confined suburban projects because there was less noise and dust emissions.

Jason Sack, General Manager of Sales & Marketing, said there had been many enquiries about the village, both at the street party and following extensive media coverage about the demolition.

Expressions of interest can be emailed to sales@livingchoice.com.au or phone (08) 8340 3121 (option 3). More details about Living Choice can be found on the company’s website www.livingchoice.com.au