

GREAT BARR Observer



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Red House safe for two months

by **Adam Smith**

District Chief Reporter

Great Barr's historic Red House has been given a stay of execution after Sandwell Council deferred the decision to sell it until September.

Great Barr councillor Sadie Smith discovered official plans to sell off the house and close the park during redevelopment of the house.

After pressing the council she received confirmation that the decision was being put back two months.

"I have heard about plans to sell Red House before but it was the first time I saw them in an official report," she said.

"The decision has been put off until September so hopefully we can do something about conserving the historic house."

And Cllr Smith called on the council to seek the help of the Friends of Red House Park.

"The council keep on rebuffing the advances of the Friends of Red House Park which is a shame because they care passionately about the park,"



■ **Sadie Smith:** 'The decision has been put off until September so hopefully we can do something about conserving the historic house.'

she said.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for regeneration and transport Cllr Bob Badham, said the council has still to make its mind up over the future of the house.

"The council is currently undertaking an appraisal of the Red House in Great Barr," he said.

"A report will be presented to councillors in the near future.

"The building is Grade II Listed and has suffered from vandalism due to ease of access from Red House Park.

"Ways are being explored of se-

curing and providing a future for the building. One of the options we have looked at is a conversion.

"This is an on-going process and no decisions have been taken," he said.

● The Friends of Red House Park Fun Day is this Sunday from 11am to 4pm.

Attractions include brass band, car boot sale, fairground rides, inflatables, climbing wall, craft and charity stalls, Punch & Judy, Chris Lowe the storyteller, displays, refreshments and a chance to meet the Friends and sign their petition to save the Red House.