

FOCUS No 200

News and views for residents of Great Barr, Tamebridge & Yew Tree Estate



Red House and Red House Park: Sandwell Council is planning to sell off one of Great Barr's greatest assets



Councillors Sadie Smith and Mary Wilson, with Keith Allcock, talking about Red House and the Park.

After months of rumour about the future of Red House, Sandwell Council officers have drafted plans that would involve the sale of the Red House and enclosure of part of the park to facilitate development.

As a result of several responses to an internal consultation exercise the original timetable, which was for a decision to be taken this month, has been put back for a month or so.

Your Liberal Democrat Councillors are determined that the idea will not be allowed to slip through quietly. The Friends of Red House Park ran a petition to save Red House at the hugely successful fun day on 3rd July. If you haven't yet signed it, you can contact Sarah Carter on 0121-357 4842. Mary and Sadie are actively supporting the campaign for a real alternative that will retain some community use for Red House and are taking independent advice about this.

"The suggestion to sell off the Red House is unacceptable", says Councillor Mary Wilson. "The Red House is part of Great Barr's heritage and must be made available to the local community. Wednesbury and West Bromwich Primary Care Trust had expressed an interest in using the building for health service purposes, but now seems to have changed its mind. We lost a really good opportunity there because the PCT could have worked with the Friends of Red House Park to establish a range of community uses.

"We are determined to fight to keep the Red House as a public asset, and to get it re-opened for public use. There can be no justification for selling off this key building."