

Sandwell

Express & Star

Plan to sell building is one of a number of ideas put forward

Petition bid to save historic park house

By Chris Howes

Hundreds of people have signed a petition calling for a historic Great Barr house to be saved from being sold off. Friends of Redhouse Park say they are overwhelmed with the number of people who have signed the huge petition.

The group is battling Sandwell Council plans to sell off the house, according to members. It is one of several ideas put to the public as part of a massive consultation programme on the future of the park. Sarah Carter, chairman of the group said: "The response has been fantastic.



"Everyone seems to want to keep the building for community use.

"There is no reason to sell this off, there has to be an alternative use for it.

"It is one of the few historic buildings in Great Barr and one we could possibly keep for community use.

"We fear it will be sold off and we can't allow that to happen."

The Grade two listed house dates back to 1845.

The current tenants, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, are planning to quit the building after years of attacks from vandals.

The community is desperate to find an alternative use for the building which could include housing the library, setting up community rooms and even a cafe or restaurant.

Sandwell Council has launched a consultation programme to look at the future of the building.

The petition was set up last month during a fun day, and already has had 700 people sign in support of saving the house, following the latest threat to the building.

Sandwell Council is investigating the complaints.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends group or signing the petition can contact members on 0121 357 2482.