

Sandwell

Express & Star

Protest at sale of park history

A 700-name petition calling on council chiefs not to sell off a historic Great Barr house has been backed by a local councillor.

Friends of Redhouse Park have gathered the signatures in just one month.

According to members, Sandwell Council has put forward proposals to sell off the house, but they are battling to keep it for community use.

Newton councillor Tony Underhill has backed the Friends group and said the house was a "significant historical asset" to the area.

The Liberal Democrat councillor said: "We have few facilities in Great Barr so the potential for using the Red House as a community and cultural centre should be explored immediately.

"It a big feature of our really good park. We want to explore all options that will include community use."

The grade II 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.

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