

Sandwell

Express & Star

Fight for historic house in booster

A senior councillor today joined in the campaign to save an historic Great Barr house.

Sandwell Council is currently consulting over the future of the Red House in Redhouse Park.

It is widely believed that the house will be sold to a developer and converted into apartments.

Angry park users have already gathered a 700-name petition calling on the council to save the Grade II listed house.

Now deputy Tory group leader Councillor Tony Ward has joined the campaign.

He said it was vital the building was restored and kept as it is in the park.

He said: "There are few enough historic buildings this side of the borough as it is. I will not pretend that it will be cheap, but it is part of Sandwell's history and we should find the money from somewhere.

"After all, the council suddenly found £4.2 million to secure the future of The Public in West Bromwich.

"Work on saving the Red House would be nowhere near that amount," he added.

The house dates back to 1845, but the current tenants - British Trust for Conservation Volunteers - are planning to quit the building. The community is desperate to find an alternative use for the building.