

**PUBLIC MEETING TO FORM
THE FRIENDS OF
HOLDERS LANE AND PEBBLE MILL FIELDS**

**7.30 pm Tuesday 11 September 2012
Christ Church, 953 Pershore Road, Selly Park B29 7PS**

Opening remarks by Acting Chair of the meeting, John Clayton, Communications Officer for Selly Park South Neighbourhood Forum.

Holdes Lane Fields and Woods, Brockley Grove, Pebble Mill (or Kitchener Road) Fields and the banks of the River Rea are greatly valued by all of us here as diverse, open green space for leisure and recreation. They are greatly valued by our local communities. They are valued more widely afield by people from South Birmingham who regularly visit the area.

These Fields need a collective voice to represent them, to safeguard their future, to speak up for them.

The initial driving force has come from the fact that the area as it exists was under threat earlier this year of possible radical change by the proposals of UCB to develop it as a sports campus.

Whilst that immediate threat has receded as a result of the new Labour administration of Birmingham City Council putting everything "on hold" we are nevertheless aware that councillors and officers are actively investigating possible management solutions for the area. There are also things which need urgent action like the derelict pavilion at Holdes Lane and the problems of antisocial and criminal activity around it at night time. This being the case, the surrounding residents need a representative body immediately to keep a watching brief on the situation, to represent the combined views and interests of the surrounding communities and work positively with the City Council as the public owners of the land.

We are dealing with at least four rather differing surrounding community groups - Selly Park South, Selly Park Residents Community Association (the Avenues and Sir John's Road in the north of Selly Park), Moor Green Lane West and Elizabeth Road in Moseley and Holdes Lane and Holdes Gardens in Moseley. These four communities need combined representation. A key problem of earlier consultation was that they were being carried out piecemeal with individual groups without the knowledge of the all the interested communities. We are also dealing with the area being in two different City Council wards and constituencies (Selly Oak and Moseley-Kings Heath) which adds the need for a collective voice.

The formal establishment of the Friends Organisation by residents from all of the communities this evening will send out a clear message that this organisation is the voice of the local communities for these fields. The interim management committee will provide an immediate representative channel for that voice and will shape the structure for the organisation through its constitution, to be brought back to the residents for consideration and approval within six months.

The previous public meeting held back in June was something of a protest meeting and those present were left in no doubt of the strength of feeling against "over-development" of the area. This evening's meeting needs to be an entirely constructive one for taking the whole process forward in a positive way.

Since the last meeting representatives from a number of the local community associations have met together to discuss the way forward and the purpose of this evening's meeting is to provide that way forward.
