

Friends of Graves Park
139 Mount View Road
SHEFFIELD
S8 8PJ

23rd January 2015

Dear Friends of Graves Park Supporter

We need your help now!

The latest news regarding the fate of Cobnar Cottage is not good. Sheffield City Council has submitted a notice in the Sheffield Telegraph this week, stating their intention to sell the cottage.

We have informed the Council and its officers on numerous occasions that this is **contrary to the covenants which protect Graves Park for the people of Sheffield**. Despite this, **the Council are going ahead with the sale**.

During the past year, the Friends of Graves Park have:

- Tried to explain the covenants of Graves Park to the trustees (the Council cabinet) and the council officers.
- Secured a survey of the cottage, which indicated that the cost of restoration would be £160,000 (mainly because of the appalling neglect by the Council and its officers, who did no remedial work after the bathroom caused a flood in the property several years ago).
- After being told that the Council had no intention of retaining the property for rent and would not support any project for such restoration, researched alternative more economical ways of retaining the site for the Graves Park charity.
- Produced a business plan for converting the site into an historical memorial garden, retaining the imprint of the cottage for posterity.

Ultimately our position regarding this issue is the same as it is for any part of the park. **This is charitable parkland and the covenants state clearly that it cannot be sold.** Any building no longer required can be demolished, according to the covenants. This has been confirmed by recent legal advice commissioned by the Friends of Graves Park. We have passed this on to the Charity Commission.

We need your help now!

Write to Kier and to the Council objecting to the sale of the cottage and the land on which it stands. Include an e-mail to Isobel Bowler and to your local councillor.

At our last meeting with Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, and Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Mr Billington stated that people in Sheffield did not care what happened to Cobnar Cottage and did not realise that it was part of Graves Park. He said that all the people he had spoken to had no objections to its sale or disposal. Mr Billington is of the opinion that the people of Sheffield do not care if the cottage is sold freehold. Clearly, he does not know how strongly some of us feel about this issue.

In the public notice, it states that

“any representations in relation to the proposed disposal should be submitted in writing and delivered to Kier Asset Partnership Services by 12 noon on 20th February 2015”.

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Isobel.Bowler@sheffield.gov.uk

It is now time to campaign to protect every bit of the park. If we lose one small piece, we could lose the lot!

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Dewar', followed by a period.

Caroline Dewar
Chairman, Friends of Graves Park
Charity Number: 1080407