

**Highbury Concept Plan**  
**Response to the Chairman of the Trusts and Charities Sub-Committee**

fao Cllr. John Alden and the Moseley and Kings Heath Ward Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

Thank you for considering our draft concept plan. It is currently being considered by other local community groups and residents. The response we've received to date has been wholly positive and supportive. We await further feedback from other groups in the City and neighbourhood.

We were pleased to read that you found some of our proposals "thought provoking" and positive. It has always been our intention to find a way forward with the existing Trustees to problems raised by the Charity Commission. Whilst our proposals are still at the outline stage, they offer a new direction and purpose for Highbury Trust that has never been advertised before. We recognise that much more needs to be done to produce a working plan with detailed financial analysis but to reach this point more resources are required as well as a more transparent and detailed breakdown of the Trusts current financial position.

In your response, paragraph three; we need to clarify the point you raise here. You suggest that we are saying (on page 5) that Trustees are settling for a minimum rent to be paid. This is not the case; we are highlighting a potential conflict of interest caused by the City Council being the sole Trustee and not acting as an independent charity (as suggested by the Charity Commission).

A renewed Highbury Trust could include local groups (and the City Council) that help find additional resources and plan a sustainable way forward. We look forward to progressing the recommendations listed (page 12 of the concept plan) in partnership with the Trusts and Charities sub committee. A working group could be formed soon to consider ways forward and in particular how to finance any improvements. We appreciate that the Hall is of particular interest and has been the focus of renovation work in the past but we also want to ensure that the whole site is a substantial community resource. Therefore, the opportunity to utilise the potential of the Highbury landscape should not be missed.

We look forward to meeting with you and other members of the Trusts and Charities sub committee to consider the conservation and sustainable use of this fantastic resource. We aim to summarise the findings from our own consultation exercise in the Summer of 2008.

Written on behalf of the consortium of local groups interested in the future of Highbury Trust, including Friends of Highbury Park, The Moseley Society, Moseley Community Development Trust, Britannic Park Residents' Association and Heathfield Rd Residents

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