

Hands off our fields

A MEETING to oppose Tameside Council's proposals to sell off land left to the community in Newton has attracted a passionate response from local residents and users alike.

The pool room of The Rising Moon was overflowing with people anxious to save the fields for the community on Tuesday night.

The land, comprising 5.73 acres and known as 'The Waldorf Playing Fields' were left to the Borough of Hyde by Newton Mill Limited in 1973.

The land was granted with a covenant attached "Ensuring that the land is used as a recreation ground for the use of the residents of Hyde."

It is understood the covenant on the land can only be lifted in the event of the "Corporation requiring the land for the purposes of a school and that land of a similar size is provided for recreational purposes within the boundaries of Hyde."

Since that time Local



Government Reorganisation in 1974 meant that Hyde was swallowed up by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council.

Now the council want to sell the land, despite the covenant, and it is believed the most likely interested party will be Dukinfield Golf Club who already own land surrounding the plot.

The fields are used by

thousands of Tameside residents who walk their dogs, play football and fly kites.

The meeting was called by Caroline Eastwood, who addressed the packed pool room, to urge users of the fields to lodge their objections to the Borough Solicitor before the deadline date of May 29.

She also asked people to sign a petition and lobby

their councillors and MP James Purnell.

Caroline a social worker from Talbot Road, Newton, said: "We need to mobilise to stop this sale.

"This land belongs to the people of Tameside and was granted to the then Hyde Borough Council on that basis."

Residents are pictured at the meeting above. ROS-252