

# South City News

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FROM

**HARBORNE:** Row over plans for city's unique 'garden suburb'

# Allotment holders ordered off plots

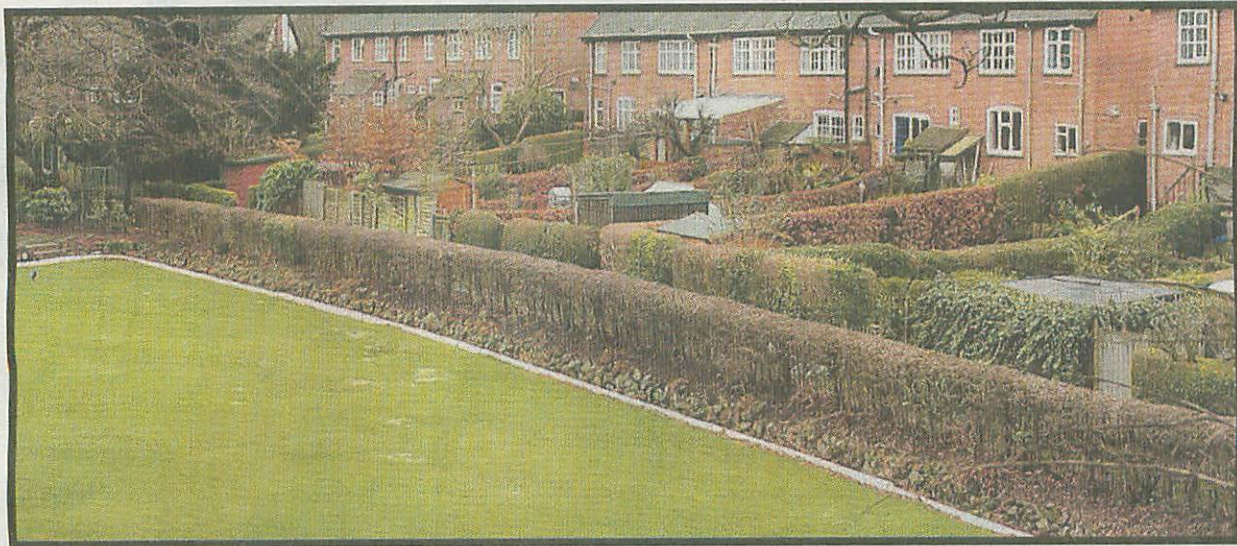
By Poppy Brady

**SHOCKED** allotment holders in Birmingham's unique "garden suburb" are being ordered off their plots by the estate's property managers who have served them with eviction papers.

The move is fuelling rumours that parts of Harborne's historic Moorpool estate are about to be redeveloped, particularly on the Valley site where about 40 garages lie at the back of Ravenhurst Road and Margaret Grove.

A number of allotments also form the site which estate managers Graingers say they are considering as part of a "sensitive development".

Tim Nicholson, development manager for Graingers, said: "I am sorry that people feel anxious about the future of the site, but we want to reassure residents that we recognise the very special character and history of Moorpool which we are keen to preserve. Since we



■ DEVELOPMENT BID... allotment holders on the Moorpool estate have been given the boot.

own 170 of the 400 properties on Moorpool we would not want to create anything that would have a negative impact on the estate.

"We have served notice to some allotment holders on the Valley site, but everyone will be given an alternative plot in one of the core allotment sites, which again we intend to keep and improve. We

have been working closely with the Conservation Area Management Plan Steering Group who we consulted when the direction was secured, which now gives further protection to the appearance of Moorpool's houses.

"We hope to hold a public consultation within the next couple of months to explain to all residents what plans we have,

which have to be passed anyway by the city council."

But resident Alastair Moyes, aged 41, said: "Graingers have consistently refused to tell residents what is going on and this is unacceptable. We are not against developments that will improve Moorpool but rumours are being fuelled by the fact that we know nothing. The

eviction notices have come as a total shock."

Edgbaston MP Gisela Stuart, who has organised a meeting with Graingers, said: "I think they are fuelling suspicion by being unnecessarily confrontational about this.

"They have served notices to quit without telling people what they want to do there."