

**Protests over Everton's move plan**

**Protests are taking place in Merseyside over the proposals to relocate Everton Football Club to a new location outside of Liverpool.**

Plans are being considered to move the club to a purpose-built 55,000-seater ground in Kirkby town centre.

A two-day public consultation on the town's regeneration is taking place.

Keep Everton in Our City campaigners and the Kirkby Residents Action Group (KRAG) are demonstrating outside Knowsley Council offices.

Campaigners who want Everton to remain in Liverpool are telling local residents about the congestion and disorder a new stadium might bring to Kirkby town centre.

**History and traditions**

They were also showing them CCTV video footage from Merseyside Police of Everton and Manchester United fans fighting.

Alfie Hinks, secretary of the Keep Everton in our City campaign, said: "[Everton] say that Goodison Park can't be redeveloped into an up-to-date stadium.

"We feel it's important to keep the history and traditions of Everton in Liverpool - the club is 129 years old and is probably one of the oldest clubs in the league to still be within its original boundary.

"We have suggested a couple of sites in the north of the city which we think would be ideal - both in terms of infrastructure, access and location."

**Artists' impressions**

The suggested move to Kirkby is part of a larger regeneration plan for the city which includes shops, a hotel and a Tesco superstore.

Over the next two days artists' impressions of how the town centre could look will be on display at the council offices before the exhibition goes on tour around Kirkby to let as many people as possible have their say.

In a commons motion earlier this month former Labour Minister Peter Kilfoyle said the city council had failed to offer the club any "realistic sites" in the city.

However, a Liverpool City Council spokesman said: "We are keen to see Everton stay in the city and we have discussed two potential sites with the club that we believe could meet their needs."

Everton chairman Bill Kenwright has said he does not want to be the "guy who moves Everton away from Goodison Park", but that remaining at the club's ageing ground was not a financial option.