

They're all steamed up over sauna!

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Sauna talks

Members of the Birmingham Baths Action Group will meet with city councillors on Tuesday to discuss the reopening of the saunas and showers at the baths in Bourville Lane, Birmingham, which were closed with the pool on March 1.

Men invaded the female sanctuary of ladies' saunas night to join a protest "steam-in" at Bourville Lane baths this week.

The sit-in with a difference was staged because sauna users were hot under the collar about city council plans to close the baths.

City officials have said the baths, which contain a swimming pool, sauna and gymnasium complex with solariums, were a danger to the public and too expensive to repair.

But customer Mr Peter Brennan, aged 34, of Greenfield Road, Mariner's, said regulars had started a Save Our Saunas campaign.

"We have been given a week's notice of the closure and it's outrageous," he added.

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Mr Brennan, who has been using the baths for 18 years, said customers were demanding an alternative venue.

"If they have allowed it to be kept open so long why can't they keep it open another six months until alternative facilities can be offered?" he asked.

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City leisure services committee chairman Councillor Bryan Bird (Lab, Stockland Green) said the baths would cost £1 million to repair.



Sauna enthusiasts (from left) Graham Breakwell, Mike Tucker, John Jones, Barry Hawkins, Dr Patrick, Peter Brennan and Derek Harrison join the ladies' sauna session for a protest sit-in over closure plans for Bourville baths.