

Stroud: Work to begin

Hill Paul flats due for start

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THE company behind plans to turn one of Stroud's top landmarks into luxury flats believes work could begin on the scheme by June.

Surrey-based Harper Homes bought the six-storey Hill Paul building at Cheapside for around £195,000 last month.

The former clothing factory has laid empty since it closed in the early 1970s.

At one stage community groups hoped to buy it as the site for a town museum, cinema or craft workshops.

However planners later approved a scheme to convert it into 30 flats and the price of the building rose beyond any organisation's reach.

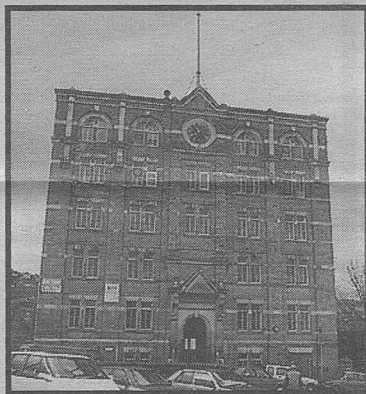
Chairman of Harper Homes, Alan Harper said he intends to go ahead with the flats project, developing a mixture of one, two and three bedroomed apartments.

"Our intention is to ensure the scheme is fully in keeping with the area and will turn this derelict building into something of which the town can be proud," he said.

A full planning application is expected shortly with work due to begin around June.

And Mr Harper is asking local people to get involved with the project.

"I would like to hear from anyone who used to work at the factory or anyone who has old photographs of the area or documents about the factory," he said. "We want to find out as much as



■ The derelict Hill Paul building.

by Andy Read

we can to ensure the building retains its history."

Mr Harper said he has already traced design drawings of the historic factory clock which he hopes to restore and would like to include the building in the district council's redevelopment plans for the Cheapside area.

Mr Harper said architects were still considering what use the former steam raising building at the rear of the factory could be put to.

Anyone with any memories or old photographs can contact Mr Harper at Harper Homes, Sandringham House, PO Box 2009, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 62R.