

# HILL PAUL WILL BE BULLDOZED

15/11/00

**SHOCKED** conservationists said they are horrified after planners decided to allow the demolition of Stroud's landmark Hill Paul building.

Members of the town's Civic Society – who yesterday listened to the debate before the crucial resolution was agreed – were stunned.

The society's chairman Juliet Shipman said afterwards: "It shows a complete lack of concern for historic buildings.

"I am shocked. It is appalling and it is also very sad."

Conservationists had earlier fought to

by Jo Barber

protect Hill Paul, a derelict former clothing factory at Cheapside, from being knocked down because it was part of Stroud's industrial heritage.

But the property, which has lain empty for years, had suffered from decay and vandalism and its condition had worsened and there was an "ominous tilt" just above the clock.

Coun Mike Charley told the development control committee of Stroud District Council: "We have no alternative but to grant consent for demolition." Coun Charley, the council's cabinet member for planning told his col-

## Town landmark demolition shock

leagues: "What would happen if it collapses onto the road leading to Cheapside.

"Also the parapet is bowing outwards slightly."

Coun Dennis Andrewartha agreed saying: "Unfortunately we have to bite the bullet. This building has to come down."

It was back in January the council gained a court order against Hill Paul's

owners requiring them to make it safe.

Owners Harper Homes then elected to do just that through the application to demolish the property, which overlooks Stroud railway station.

An attempt made during the meeting to defer the demolition decision until a specialist from English Heritage could offer a second opinion on the state of Hill Paul failed to gain the councillors' support.

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