



■ **HOMES AND WORKSHOPS:** Stroud's Hill Paul building.

# Backers give Hill Paul plans their support

**INVESTORS** in the landmark Hill Paul building at Stroud have supported new designs for community workshops and housing on the controversial site.

Shareholders in the limited company set up to save the historic factory from demolition were interested in the package of starter workshops and offices, a restaurant and homes that was shown to them, said spokesman Tony Nares.

But although the presentation by a consortium of five architects was well received, the scheme still had a long way to go.

"We would need to see a lot more detail before accepting it," said Mr

by Stroud Reporter  
**Jo Barber**



Nares, a chartered accountant.

"They liked the package. I think it was received very positively. But we are at the start of a journey – a very early stage."

The company, formed within the Hill Paul Regeneration Group, exchanged contracts to buy the building in January after objectors stopped bulldozers sent in by the building's owners at the time to knock it down.

The group, which even staged a rooftop protest, is now making monthly payments to preserve the building

until, hopefully, it can complete the £1.3 million purchase with help from grants.

Architect Danny Sullivan, one of the five designers of the new Hill Paul scheme, said some workshops would be linked to houses and other workshop and office space would be intended to be shared for starter businesses.

Up to 40 homes, including one-bedroom starter flats, were among the ideas, said Mr Sullivan.

However, with development costs of £7m to £8m, the scheme would need to attract considerable money from banks and possibly organisations like the Regional Development Agency, he said.