

# Cash hope in town's bid to save Hill Paul

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by Stroud Reporter

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**PEOPLE fighting to save the landmark Hill Paul building at Stroud say they are about to celebrate a milestone in their £1.3 million campaign.**

Spokesman for the Hill Paul Regeneration Group, structural engineer Nick Maclean, said the watershed would be next weekend when the former factory would be open for prospective shareholders and purchasers to visit.

Earlier there were fears the long empty canalside property, that had fallen into dereliction, might be demolished.

But then the group of locals keen to keep Hill Paul emerged and exchanged contracts to buy it with stage payments being made during this year.

Mr Maclean, involved with a similar regenerative scheme in London, said: "I believe that we are now virtually a quarter of the way there in terms of funding."

Hill Paul's, at Cheapside near Stroud Railway Station, would therefore be open early on Saturday evening for escorted guided tours for people keen to become financially involved in the project.

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Nick Maclean, Hill Paul Regeneration Group structural engineer

Mr Maclean said the mixed use conversion of Hill Paul's was economically viable.

"I feel very positive," he said. "We have got to the point where it looks more than feasible."

The group need to find £1.3 million altogether to buy Hill Paul's and are due to make their next £20,000 monthly payment which takes them to £165,000 cash injected so far said Mr Maclean.

With three backers also prepared to loan a further £150,000 to buy the old builders' merchants land next to Hill Paul's that meant almost a quarter of the purchase price was available.

Mr Maclean said the group therefore hoped the milestone open event, from 4-6pm, would attract buyers for future flats in converted Hill Paul and for new canalside town homes on the adjoining land.

It was at Christmas and New Year the group blockaded a giant bulldozer sent in by Hill Paul's former owners to knock the building down.

One campaigner even climbed to the top of the six storey building, lowered a giant protest banner and staged a roof top sit in.