

Stroud: Conversion ruled out

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# Homes saved as £2m revamp falls through

by Sue Painter

**TWO OLD people's homes in Stroud which had been earmarked for closure are to stay in business.**

Gloucester-based Coverage Care has said it will spend £1 million on refurbishing Southfield Nursing Home, in Park Road, and Wyatt House, at Paganhill, both of which are more than 30 years old.

But the firm has axed its £2 million plan to transform Uplands House in Springfield Road into a modern nursing home for 75 old people.

In 1995 Coverage Care announced its plans to redevelop the grade II listed house which dates back to the 17th Century.

The scheme was to have included new buildings, an Elderly, Mentally Infirm Unit (EMI), en-suite bedrooms, a day centre and three acres of gardens.

## Best

But since then the derelict house has been a magnet for vandals and the victim of a number of fires.

Jeff Lavis, group business manager for Coverage Care, said it was felt that refurbishing the group's existing homes, in which 65 people live, was the best option for the company.

"After consideration of a detailed business plan it was felt by the management committee that it would be better to go forward with a significant refurbishment rather than continue with the development of Uplands House.

"We have already refurbished around 17 of our homes around Gloucestershire over the last three years, spending something in the region of £12.7 million.

"It is a very positive response from our committee that we see the future of residential area in the Stroud area as being secure hence the refurbishment of the two homes."

Coverage Care took over the county's old folks' homes in 1992.



■ Derelict Uplands House will no longer be turned into a home for 75 old people after vandalism left the building in a poor state.

Photo: Simon Pizzey