

Centre plan for factory

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AN OLD clothes factory, which has lain empty for years, could be turned into a community centre if enough cash can be raised to buy the building.

The Hill Paul building has been earmarked by Stroud Civic Society as a possible location for a community facility.

If the group raises the £225,000 to buy the building, it could transform the lower three floors into meeting rooms and a restaurant, with exhibition space and a heritage area.

The upper floors would be converted into a kitchen, studio workshops, offices and toilets.

Members have been meeting for the last three months to discuss the proposals but will be meeting again on Monday to decide the financial feasibility of such a project.

Ideal

Jenny Bailey, of Stroud Civic Society, said: "We would very much like to raise the money to buy the Hill Paul building. It would be ideal for a community centre."

If the society bought the building it would then be able to apply for lottery funding to carry out building work.

"At the moment avenues are being investigated and we hope to have a package put forward to the owner and other bodies quite soon," Jenny added.

"Our problem is raising the initial cost to buy the building. We would appeal to anyone for help with fundraising."

Alvin Gardiner of Frowans estate agency said: "No formal offer has been made from the Civic Society so the building is still up for sale.

"I look forward to hearing from interested parties on the sale of the property."