



■ The former Hill Paul clothing factory in Cheapside, Stroud. Opinion appears to be divided over the decision to demolish this imposing Victorian building.



■ LAURA SCHOLLAR: 'It has been allowed to go to rack and ruin and should come down.'

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■ TONY POWELL: 'It is part of the character of Stroud and should be kept.'

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■ TRUDY PERRILL: 'It should be pulled down now.'

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■ GORDON KNEE: 'There is bound to be a solution somewhere along the line.'

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■ ROBERT SELLE: 'It should not come down because they allowed it to deteriorate.'

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Mixed views over future of landmark

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THE crumbling Hill Paul factory building is continuing to cause controversy at Stroud.

The tall red-brick landmark overlooking the town's railway station at Cheapside is unsafe and should be knocked down, say its owners Harper Homes.

Members of Stroud District Council agreed and recently gave permission for the demolition to go ahead.

But members of Stroud Civic Society, among others, strongly disagree with the action, and now a new Hill Paul Regeneration Group has been launched to save the building.

Against that background, *The Citizen* took to the streets of Stroud to canvass local people's opinions on the issue.

Sales assistant Sally Wells, 31, from Dudbridge: "No, I don't think it should be knocked down because it is a landmark. It would be a shame to lose it."

Full-time mum Laura Schollar, 42, of Randwick: "Now it has been allowed to go to



■ **SALLY WELLS: 'It would be a shame to lose it.'**

Pictures: Martin Perry C200703A25

by Jo Barber

rack and ruin, yes it should come down. If it had been preserved in the first place, I might say it would have been worth saving."

Roofer Tony Powell, 32, of

Gannicox: "I don't think it should come down myself because it has been there for such a long time and they ought to keep it. It is part of the character of Stroud."

Heritage

Mother Trudy Perrill, 43, from Paganhill: "It should be pulled down now. It is a shame because when it was a thriving factory business the women who worked there used to come into town to shop on their lunch hours."

Lorry driver Gordon Knee, 42, of Horns Road: "It should not come down. It is part of our heritage. It is something that has been there a long time. There is bound to be a solution somewhere along the line."

Retired Robert Selle, 65, of Brownhill: "No, it should not come down because they allowed it to deteriorate so they could come forward with an application to raze the building. The real problem was some years ago when the new museum should have gone in there."