

# Protesters' Christmas card plea to developers

# 'LEAVE HILL

19/12/00

# PAUL ALONE'

**CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save historic Hill Paul are calling on the owner to make a New Year's resolution to sell the building and not demolish it.**

The conservationists are piling the pressure on Harper Homes, which has agreed to reopen talks on Hill Paul's future.

Director Malcolm Bushell has agreed to meet Stroud businessmen to seek a solution to preserve the landmark factory building.

The town's MP, campaigners and residents are urging the developers to

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sell the Hill Paul building in Stroud town centre to Snow Business – the Nailsworth-based firm which makes artificial snow for films and TV.

Harper Homes has turned down a £200,000 offer from Snow Business proprietor David Crownshaw stating the bid was “not even half way there”.

But now the developer – which recently gained permission to demolish the building – has reopened talks with Snow Business and with the newly formed Hill Paul Regeneration Group.

Special Christmas cards, organised

by the group, are being sent to Caterham-based Harper Homes.

Group chairwoman Juliet Shipman, of Eastcombe, said: “Stroud shoppers are sending the cards to Harper Homes urging them to make a New Year Resolution to sell the building for renovation. The card also carries the message ‘We’re not planning to tear down Caterham’s landmark buildings, so please leave ours’.

“The new card shows the stars shining brightly on Hill Paul and supporters of the building are working hard to make this a reality – by having it floodlit for Christmas.”

Mr Crownshaw said: “Harper Homes does not seem so intent on de-

molition and we will be looking at alternative uses.

“We are looking for new headquarters and Hill Paul would be suitable. There is also potential for a mixed use between residential, leisure and arts.

“Stroud needs something like that and this could help revitalise the town.”

Juliet Shipman confirmed: “Mr Bushell has agreed to come down to Stroud just after Christmas for a meeting with local businessmen to see what can be salvaged. So there is now some light at the end of the tunnel.”

At the time of going to press Mr Bushell was not available for comment.

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