

HAVE YOU GOT A STROUD STORY? 01453 763 661

Carbuncle view earns a 'No' for Hill Paul plan

15.11.02

by Jo Barber

Stroud reporter

reporter@stroudcitizen.fsworld.co.uk



THE developer behind the thoroughly modern and largely glass penthouses proposed on top of the controversial Hill Paul building in Stroud says he is "gobsmacked" his idea has been turned down.

Boss Julian Magee of Chelbury Homes, which is currently turning the old Hill Paul factory into 36 flats, said he couldn't believe Stroud District Council had rejected his additional scheme.

The two-storey provision of an extra four dwellings on the roof of the landmark property in Cheapside was variously described as a "carbuncle", a "pyramid" and "air traffic control" by the councillors when they met at Ebley Mill on Tuesday.

More than a dozen objectors also sent protest letters to the authority saying the design was "flimsy looking" and that after all the time and effort put into saving the building the modification "would be an insult to us all".

The Hill Paul building was threatened with demolition until campaigners, who even staged a rooftop protest, won it first a reprieve then saved it as part of Stroud's industrial history.

Mr Magee, however, said: "I don't know where they are coming from. I am gobsmacked. You are not going to regenerate Stroud with pastiche. We will obviously appeal."

Planning officer John Longmuir said Stroud Town Council was concerned the design was "over fussy" and Rodborough Parish Council was also very concerned.

But Mr Longmuir recommended the penthouses for permission. He told members: "The philosophy behind the design ... is an honest statement that

Picture: Not for resale



■ **TOP FLOOR:** An artist's impression of what the planned penthouse flats on top of the Hill Paul building would look like, as seen from Stroud railway station.

this is a modern addition."

At the same time, however, the penthouses offended Coun Dennis Andrewartha. "Every time I look at it I wonder where the runway is going to go.

"It is a carbuncle on top of a terrific building. I can see no merit in it at all," he said.

Coun John Marjoram went further.

"It isn't flats, it is air traffic control," he said.

But Coun Janet Wood was all for the design. "It is a pyramid.

"There was a lot of deliberation about the pyramid outside The Louvre at first."

Members voted to turn down permission for the Chelbury idea, on the grounds of inappropriate design.

Carbuncle view earns a 'No' for Hill Paul plan

15.11.02

by Jo Barber

Stroud reporter

reporter@stroudcitizen.fsworld.co.uk



THE developer behind the thoroughly modern and largely glass penthouses proposed on top of the controversial Hill Paul building in Stroud says he is "gobsmacked" his idea has been turned down.

Boss Julian Magee of Chelbury Homes, which is currently turning the old Hill Paul factory into 36 flats, said he couldn't believe Stroud District Council had rejected his additional scheme.

The two-storey provision of an extra four dwellings on the roof of the landmark property in Cheapside was variously described as a "carbuncle", a "pyramid" and "air traffic control" by the councillors when they met at Ebley Mill on Tuesday.

More than a dozen objectors also sent protest letters to the authority saying the design was "flimsy looking" and that after all the time and effort put into saving the building the modification "would be an insult to us all".

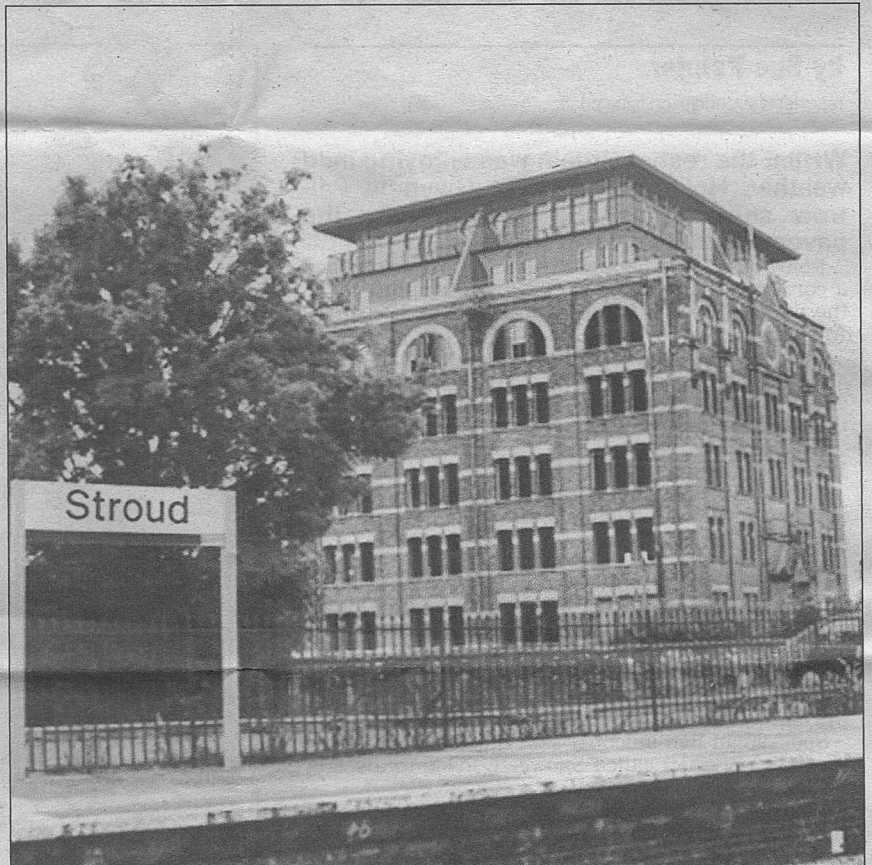
The Hill Paul building was threatened with demolition until campaigners, who even staged a rooftop protest, won it first a reprieve then saved it as part of Stroud's industrial history.

Mr Magee, however, said: "I don't know where they are coming from. I am gobsmacked. You are not going to regenerate Stroud with pastiche. We will obviously appeal."

Planning officer John Longmuir said Stroud Town Council was concerned the design was "over fussy" and Rodborough Parish Council was also very concerned.

But Mr Longmuir recommended the penthouses for permission. He told members: "The philosophy behind the design ... is an honest statement that

Picture: Not for resale



■ **TOP FLOOR:** An artist's impression of what the planned penthouse flats on top of the Hill Paul building would look like, as seen from Stroud railway station.

this is a modern addition."

At the same time, however, the penthouses offended Coun Dennis Andrewartha. "Every time I look at it I wonder where the runway is going to go.

"It is a carbuncle on top of a terrific building. I can see no merit in it at all," he said.

Coun John Marjoram went further.

"It isn't flats, it is air traffic control," he said.

But Coun Janet Wood was all for the design. "It is a pyramid.

"There was a lot of deliberation about the pyramid outside The Louvre at first."

Members voted to turn down permission for the Chelbury idea, on the grounds of inappropriate design.