

Consortium bid to save Hill Paul site

24.1.02

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The group which wants to buy the £1.3 million site to save Hill Paul itself from demolition were talking to owner Malcolm Bushell of Harper Homes, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

But it was "fingers crossed" the sums added up, said Irene Hopwood, spokeswoman for the Hill Paul Regeneration group.

"There is not an awful lot of new information on Hill Paul but the very latest is that we have a consortium of businessmen who are now in negotiation directly with Mr Bushell, and he has given us six weeks to come up with a scheme covering the whole of the site which includes saving the building," said Mrs Hopwood.

by Stroud Reporter
Jo Barber



The group has fought for more than a year to save the landmark property from being knocked down.

Mrs Hopwood added that the regeneration group remained "optimistic" Hill Paul could be saved.

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wood blockaded the road when Mr Bushell sent in a giant demolition machine.

The group won a year's reprieve to raise the purchase price of the site but couldn't come up with the cash.

They have now, however, helped put together a package that, if accepted by Harpers, would keep Hill Paul for conversion and allow both redevelopment of the adjoining canalside land and of the next door derelict builders' merchant parts of the site.

But by the new year they had collected just £150,000 which, when added to their own developer's offer of £950,000 still left them £200,000 short.

The campaigners believe Hill Paul is a part of Stroud's industrial heritage and should be saved.

But Harper's boss Malcolm Bushell has said Hill Paul must come down because renovation is uneconomic.

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