

Unique homes plan go-ahead

13/6/01

by Stroud Reporter

Jo Barber



A UNIQUE community housing scheme in Stroud has been given the go-ahead.

Supporters of the development in the old Uplands House site said Stroud should be proud that it would soon have the first purpose-built co-housing community in Britain.

District council planners finally granted permission yesterday.

It was hoped the 40 homes on the site would be ready for the families backing the scheme to move into next summer.

"I am very relieved that the council have done the right thing and that Stroud will be proud to have the first co-housing community in the UK," said David Michael, after councillors resolved not to refuse the idea.

Work on the 35 dwellings, two office studios, community house and two more dwellings off Slad Road would start early this autumn and Mr Michael said they would take about 10 months to build.

Some 25 families were lined up to join the scheme, he said, which will have a central community house with large kitchen and dining room, workspaces and study and craft areas for residents to share.

The development will be the first of its kind to be built in Britain, although other similar projects are already running in the Netherlands and Germany.

The permission, granted by the Stroud District Council development control committee, was fantastic news,

Picture: Not for resale



■ **OFF WITH THE OLD:** The old Uplands House which fell foul of vandals and was demolished. Permission has now been given for a unique housing project on the site.

agreed prospective resident Christine Cradock.

"This is a good scheme which is actually something that will be copied in other areas," said Mrs Cradock.

Fellow member of the Co-Housing Company Natalie Davenport agreed Stroud should be "very proud" of itself for going for the idea.

In April, the committee rejected the co-housing as out of character with the local area and short of

private amenity space.

Now, however, amended plans showed bricks were to be used for the homes instead of timber cladding and every house had a private garden, planning officer Baljit Tiwana told the meeting.

The scheme was indeed innovative, said Coun Brian Addle, and would be something Stroud should welcome.

Coun Barbara Tait felt the same. "I do agree it is an imaginative scheme," she said.