



■ At the centre of a planning row... the 19th century gazebo, before to its demolition.

Planners' fury in gazebo row

A 19TH CENTURY gazebo, knocked down by developers three years ago, could be at the centre of a court battle.

Conservationists are furious the 200-year-old circular building sunk into a garden wall on Acre Street, Stroud, was demolished by Wessex Retirement Homes without planning permission.

Planners say they have now reached the end of their tether and are to seek approval to prosecute the company later this month.

And Stroud Civic Society have applied for planning permission to

demolish the gazebo in a bid to highlight the problem.

"If they grant the permission we have not lost anything because it has already been demolished, but I hope they refuse it and then prosecute the developer," said society spokesman Mike Hill.

Restore

Stroud District Council architect Chris Bladen said the firm had been given outline consent to move the gazebo, but that had been superseded by a detailed planning consent in which the developer was meant to restore it.

"We met with them twice in 1991 and on both occasions they had promised something would be done," he said

The summer house was built around 1800 and was part of Acre House, which was demolished to make way for 40 retirement flats.

John Ray, director of Wessex Retirement Homes said: "The demolition was an error. We assumed the planning permission to demolish the house also covered the summer house." The firm hopes to get planning permission and rebuild the gazebo in the summer, he said.