



Revamp plans going public

RESIDENTS are having their say on long-standing proposals to revamp a historic school site after a formal bid was submitted to planners.

— by —
Mandy Atkinson

A long-awaited application which seeks permission to redevelop the former St Elphin's site in Darley Dale is now in the hands of Derbyshire Dales District Council.

New owner, Audley Court Ltd – which bought the site following the school's shock closure last year – wants to create more than 100 homes for the elderly at the site off the A6.

An on-site restaurant, bar and leisure facility, which would be open for use by the community, are also outlined in the company's plans which were submitted to the authority on April 19.

Leaders of Darley Dale Town Council have already thrown their weight behind the ambitious scheme and the plans are now being put out for public consultation for residents to have their say before a final ruling is made by planners.

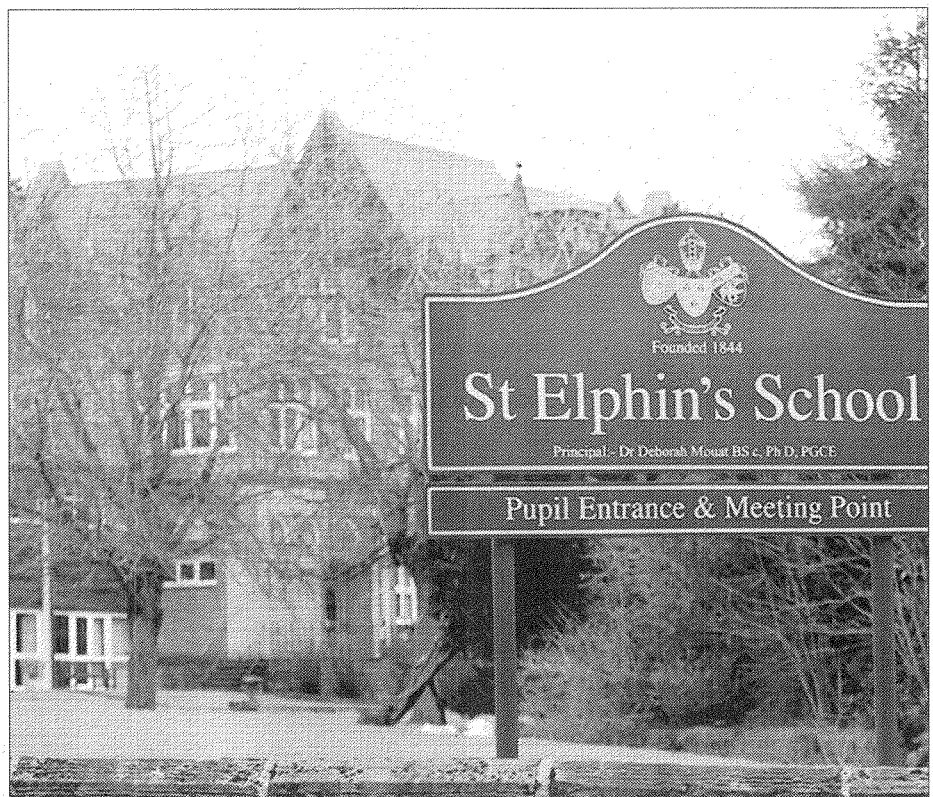
A spokesman for the district council said: "The plans for the school are now out to public consultation and the application is expected to go before the planning committee in July or August.

"Anyone wishing to view the plans can do so during office hours at planning reception in the town hall in Matlock or on our website at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk."

Cash-strapped owners of the century-old private school pulled the plug on the business last March – saying it was costing too much to keep afloat.

The consortium of businessmen had earlier stepped in to save the closure-threatened school at the 11th hour.

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● Former school site: More than 100 homes for the elderly could be created on the St Elphin's complex. P050308C1