

# VISION FOR THE FUTURE—BY STAKIS

**THE Stakis Organisation is prepared to gift more than two-thirds of the wooded parkland of Holmehill Estate for the use of the people of Dunblane as a public park.**

Negotiations have been going on along these lines with Stirling District Council, a company spokesman told the NEWS this week.

But NO PLANNING APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED by the Stakis Organisation or any agents on its behalf, he stressed.

He said: "We made an application two years ago to demolish Holmehill House. The District Council asked us to submit proposals for various office of residential developments on the site before they would consider the question of demolition."

"We employed a firm of consultants to investigate the development potential of the site and they looked at everything from residential use to offices and even factory accommodation.

"They reported back to us that the only credible development in that area was residential."

"I am aware that the Secretary of State found against another application for permission to build on another site in Dunblane."

"Basically unless there is existing consent there is no sign that any other proposals will be granted until the sewage works is upgraded to cope with the additional load."

"I understand from the Planning Department that the most we could expect was that at some time in the future they would be prepared to consider a residential application — on its own merits at that time."

He said the District Council had suggested earlier it might be possible to develop the site for offices such as the Scottish Amicable had done at Stirling.

But their consultants concluded there was only a limited number of companies who might even be interested and there would be a problem of finding sufficient staff locally.

The spokesman emphasised that:

"IN THE SHORT TERM we have no intention of developing Holmehill."

"IN THE MEDIUM TERM we anticipate delay in any application for residential development."

## NEWS REPORTER

estate is an asset on our books although the property is not of great value to us."

He explained that Holmehill and nearby Ledcameroch Estate were originally purchased to protect the company's investment in Dunblane Hydro as a prime recreational hotel in Scotland.

"We expect to maximise our investment in the Hydro where we have recently spent in the region of £1 million."

"The question of what type of residential development there should be is not definite.

He said any development on the top of the hill would be of only the same mass as the present house.

And the houses in the plan recently submitted to Stirling District in consideration of the case for demolition of the house were carefully located in the hollow at the bottom so that if they would not offend the view such as from the Cathedral — or for that matter from the Hydro.

He said: "We are not in the game of spoiling the view of Dunblane — preservation is part of our overall idea."

"Part of the negotiations which we had with the planning authority related to how much of the site we would gift to the community as a public park."

"I would say in excess of two-thirds of the estate would be retained for the use of the residents of Dunblane."



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