

2 March 2004

# NEWS RELEASE!

## ACTION GROUP ASKS FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AS HILL HOUSE PROJECT DISCUSSED BY PCT



**The Melton First Action Group has announced it has been invited to discuss its proposed regional Design Arts Centre with representatives of the Melton, Rutland & Harborough Primary Care Trust, later this month.**

**Hill House Project, which Melton First plans to develop on the Melton War Memorial Hospital site when the PCT vacate the property and parkland in 2005, is an attempt by the voluntary group and soon to be charity, to keep one of Melton's last remaining heritage sites in community hands.**

Action group Chairman, John Southerington, explained, "We're delighted to have heard from the PCT's sales agents to the effect that Melton First's Hill House Project is of sufficient interest for the PCT to want to know more about our plans."

As well as workshops and studios, the proposed Hill House Project has been designed to complement other local initiatives and provide a range of event and exhibition resources that, together with residential facilities, will help to develop tourism in the area.

John Southerington said, "We've a long way to go. Melton First was only formed in November and unlike housing developers, we have to raise all our funds through public donation and grant funding. But we're doing well; funders are listening and interested and we're gaining support from artists, designers and educationalists, amongst others."

"We've written to local Councillors asking for their support, because as well as providing amenities for local residents we're able to offer an alternative to the event space that recently fell through at the town's new Tourism Centre. We're also getting in touch with business people and householders, because they stand to benefit as Hill House Project has the potential to rejuvenate Melton."

"But support has to come from the community; if the people who live and work in the town don't care what happens to WMH, it really will become a housing development," said Mr Southerington, "and it's more than likely that the public will be completely excluded. When you consider that the site was previously bequeathed to the community, that's a travesty."

### **Support Melton First**

Make a donation to Melton First at any Melton Mowbray Building Society branch, or via the banking transfer system, to Melton Mowbray Building Society, Sort Code 40-32-14; Account Number 10572780, Ref Melton First 3315711.

Send letters of support to Melton First, Steans Yard, 12 Burton Road, Melton Mowbray LE13 1DJ. Or email [meltonfirst@theeventmakers.co.uk](mailto:meltonfirst@theeventmakers.co.uk) Tel 01664 561700.

**ENDS**

**For further MELTON FIRST information contact:**

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