

30 March 2004

NEWS RELEASE!

HILL HOUSE PROJECT: PUBLIC MEETING & OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTISTS & CRAFT WORKERS



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Melton First has announced that a public meeting will shortly take place at which the group's proposed Hill House Project will be discussed in full. The meeting will be at Melton's Working Men's Club, Norman Way, at 7pm on Thursday 22 April.

If the Action Group's bid is successful it intends to turn the War Memorial Hospital into a regional Design Arts Centre when the Melton, Rutland & Harborough Primary Care Trust vacates the Ankle Hill property and grounds in 2005.

Originally bequeathed to the town in 1921, the fully sustainable Hill House Project is an attempt by the soon to be registered charity, to keep one of Melton's few remaining heritage sites in community hands. Hill House Project is named after the first house that was built on the site.

Action group Chairman, John Southerington, said "Hill House Project provides a range of facilities to assist the development of cultural and eco-tourism to the area. The Grade II listed buildings will become studios and workshops whilst other buildings will provide accommodation, a restaurant, event and exhibition space and a shop for local crafts and artist's work."

Mr Southerington explained, "If Melton First's purchase bid is unsuccessful, the site will become a housing development and the community will lose out to those who can afford to pay for the privilege of living in such a beautiful setting."

If the Melton First bid is successful, the entirely green Hill House development will become a backdrop to fixtures and fittings sourced from local craft workers, and local artists will be invited to theme the hotel bedrooms and leisure areas.

Show your support

Melton First's bid, to be submitted on 8 April, must be accompanied by letters of support. These are essential to ensure a successful outcome. Please send a brief support message by email to meltonfirst@theeventmakers.co.uk or by post to Melton First, Steans Yard, 12 Burton Road, Melton Mowbray LE13 1DJ.

Donations to Melton First's Fighting Fund can be made 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.

If companies or individuals can assist Melton First by supplying manpower, copying, franking or other resources, please call Tel 01664 561700.

ENDS

For further MELTON FIRST information contact:

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