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Essex otters thrive in rivers

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Tilty Mill saved from demolition

Restoration plan for building

TILTY Mill will not be converted into housing after a planning application was rejected by the Secretary of State.

The old grade two listed building located near to Duton Hill had fallen into disrepair following many years of neglect but land owners Mr and Mrs Collison proposed to convert it into luxury housing.

The proposal was met with fierce opposition from local residents and trusts who want to turn the mill into a working museum or visitor centre, but a planning application was approved by Uttlesford District Council in March 2007.

Local campaigner Peter Rolph from Abbey View in Duton Hill was one of the leading campaigners who attended a two day consultation in October last year. He said: "We managed to get a consultation by appealing against the Uttlesford Council decision. They just agreed to grant planning permission without even looking properly at the site."

> "I want to restore the mill back to its former glory"
> **Peter Rolph**

By Nick Thompson
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The consultation resulted in the application being thrown out on appeal on the grounds that the grade two listed building was an important historical site and any major development work would be a threat to its future.

Mr Rolph spoke of his delight that the application had been rejected and has approached the owners with a sum of £10,000 to take control of the mill's future.

He said: "There appears to be nothing that the owners can do with the mill other than let it fall completely into disrepair.

"It is listed so they cannot knock it down or sell it for any massive amount of money. I want to restore the mill back to its former glory."

The old mill still has all its main components and although no water flows through the area at the moment, Mr Rolph said that a sluice gate further upstream can be removed to allow water to power the mill once more.

Mr Rolph has offered that cash because he has a vested interest in the area after growing up around the mill.

He said: "I used to play there when I was just a 10-year-old boy, I'm 65 now and firmly believe that something amazing can be done with that building."

Rachel Eaton peers at the white liquid

Picture: NICK THOMPSON

Doctor's Pond contaminated

A WHITE substance was found to be spewing into the Doctor's Pond on Monday afternoon.

At 10.30am a thick white liquid, thought to be paint, was spotted by local eye witnesses, including Rachel Eaton from Woodlands Park as she headed back from the town centre.

She said: "I walked passed 20 minutes ago and nothing was there, but on my way back I saw what looked liked paint literally pouring into the pond. There certainly was a lot of it. It is really worrying with so many birds and fish around."

The pond is home to around 200 birds and fish so to avoid disaster Dunmow Town Council took action.

Town clerk Owen Wilson said: "On hearing the news we sent staff out to investigate the area and called in the Environment Agency to take samples of the water. The water feeds in from a large catchment area, so it is difficult to pin point the exact source of the contamination."

Fortunately the Environment Agency sample proved that no harm had been done to the wildlife and the pond received the all clear.

If you saw the incident or what may have caused it let the broadcast know ring 01371 874537 or e-mail editor@dunmowbroadcast.co.uk

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