

Bothwell and Uddingston

fish
(er)
year

Rising
to the
challenge
Susan Brown



Chocolate orange turns to gold

A Bothwell bakery has once again taken a top industry prize.

Humble Pie was awarded with the National Bronze and Regional Gold titles for its chocolate orange cupcake in the Scottish Baker of the Year competition 2017.

Susan Brown of Humble Pie said: "We are extremely pleased to be recognised as one of Scotland's best bakers."

"We take our business very seriously and use traditional methods and

craftsmen's skills to deliver quality every time.

"We could not have come this far in the competition without the votes of all of our customers, thank you."

The Main Street shop's previous awards have included Overall Regional Award and National Gold Award - Best Individual Cake, Scottish Baker of the Year 2016

The picture shows Susan Brown of Humble Pie with the award certificate.

Developers say demolition of Victorian building is only option

Care home villa costs too high

BY MIKE McQUAID

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Developers under fire for care home plans have told protesters it would be "unviable" to save a building earmarked for demolition.

Dozens of objections have been made to a proposal by Balmer Care Homes for a 61-bed facility in Bothwell.

One nearby resident branded the proposed three-storey facility a "monstrosity".

Balmer, which runs care homes in Viewpark and Uddingston, says it plans to meet growing demand by building another on a site overlooking Hamilton Road and extending on to Old Bothwell Road.

Its planning application will be decided by South Lanarkshire Council. It involves demolishing the former Harte Construction offices and other

er, smaller buildings.

Objectors are concerned at the loss of such a prominent building in the conservation village and the impact of traffic generated by the care home, particularly in Old Bothwell Road.

Bothwell architect George Waterston said the loss to the conservation village of the "imposing Victorian building" would be "regrettable". He called for it to be retained as part of the care home development.

However, a report lodged in support of the application said the cost of repairing the neglected building, which has lain empty since 2008, would be £1.4 million, warning: "The additional costs of creating a fit for purpose high quality home would render this option unviable."

The report stated the Victorian villa has been subject to vandalism and storm damage in recent years. Missing lead

from the roof has allowed rain in and a number of ceilings have collapsed, causing damage to internal walls.

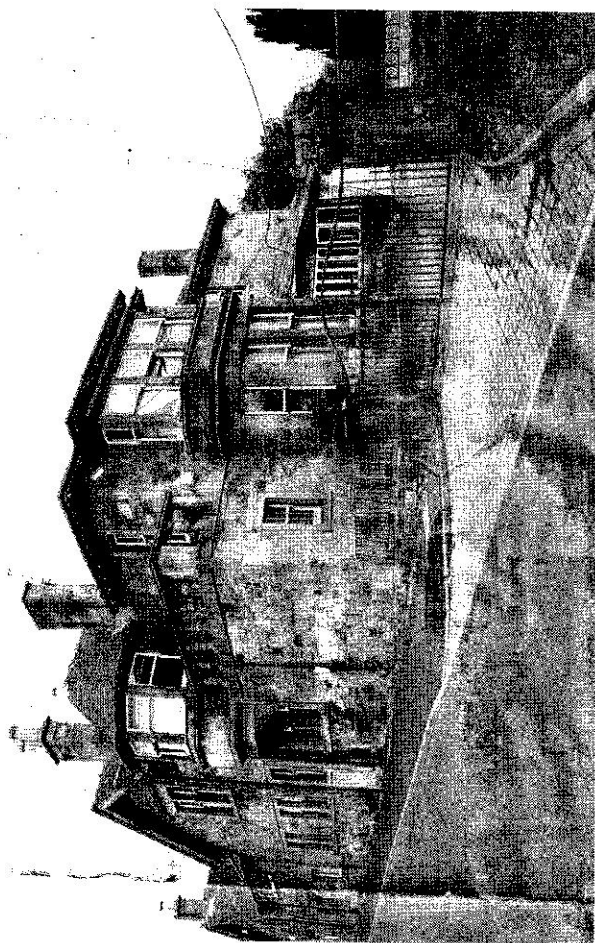
One resident pressing for the building to be retained wasn't convinced by the developers' argument, telling the council: "The purpose of a conservation village is to preserve the buildings in their current state."

"Demolishing a red sandstone villa to make way for a modern monstrosity is not in keeping with conservation status."

A local expert told me most of the red sandstone properties in the village were built with stone from the same quarry that was used to construct Bothwell Castle and Bothwell Parish Church.

"There is a link with these historic properties and to demolish such a sandstone building for purely commercial reasons is a travesty and tantamount to vandalism."

PICTURE: ALAN WATSON



Developers have been urged not to demolish the former Harte Construction offices, but insist the cost of refurbishing the storm-damaged Victorian villa is prohibitive.