

# Revised plan for £80m urban village project

## Mill development scheme set for further scrutiny

**Lizzie Murphy**

PLANS for an £80m urban village that is expected to create more than 750 jobs will come under scrutiny next week.

The mill development, at the John Holdsworth factory, in Shaw Lodge Mills, near Halifax, will be discussed by Calderdale councillors. The scheme, which is put forward by Hanson Partners and St James Securities, will secure the restoration of the whole Grade II listed complex.

As part of the planning and consultation process, a model of the development is on display in Halifax Town Hall where members of the public can see the plans for the site.

Oliver Quarmby, of St James Securities, said: "This development is crucial to the future of the site, as well as being significant for Halifax itself, and we urge people to come and have a look.

"We believe this scheme is right for Halifax and we are keen to share our vision with the town."

The original proposals for Shaw Lodge Mills, which would have led to the Holdsworth business moving out, were turned down by councillors last June because of fears about road safety and traffic congestion. The family firm of John Holdsworth has been manufacturing fabric for the transport industry at Shaw Lodge since the 19th century.

The developers have embarked

on an extensive public consultation process, including talking to local residents and businesses and to the councillors representing Town and Skircoat Wards.

The scheme is now 28 per cent smaller than the original proposal, although the essence of the plans for an urban village remains. There are fewer apartments and the number of houses in the scheme has almost doubled. The number of car park spaces on site has dropped from 921 to 650. The application also includes road-safety proposals, such as the widening of Shaw Hill and Simmonds Lane, and traffic-calming measures.

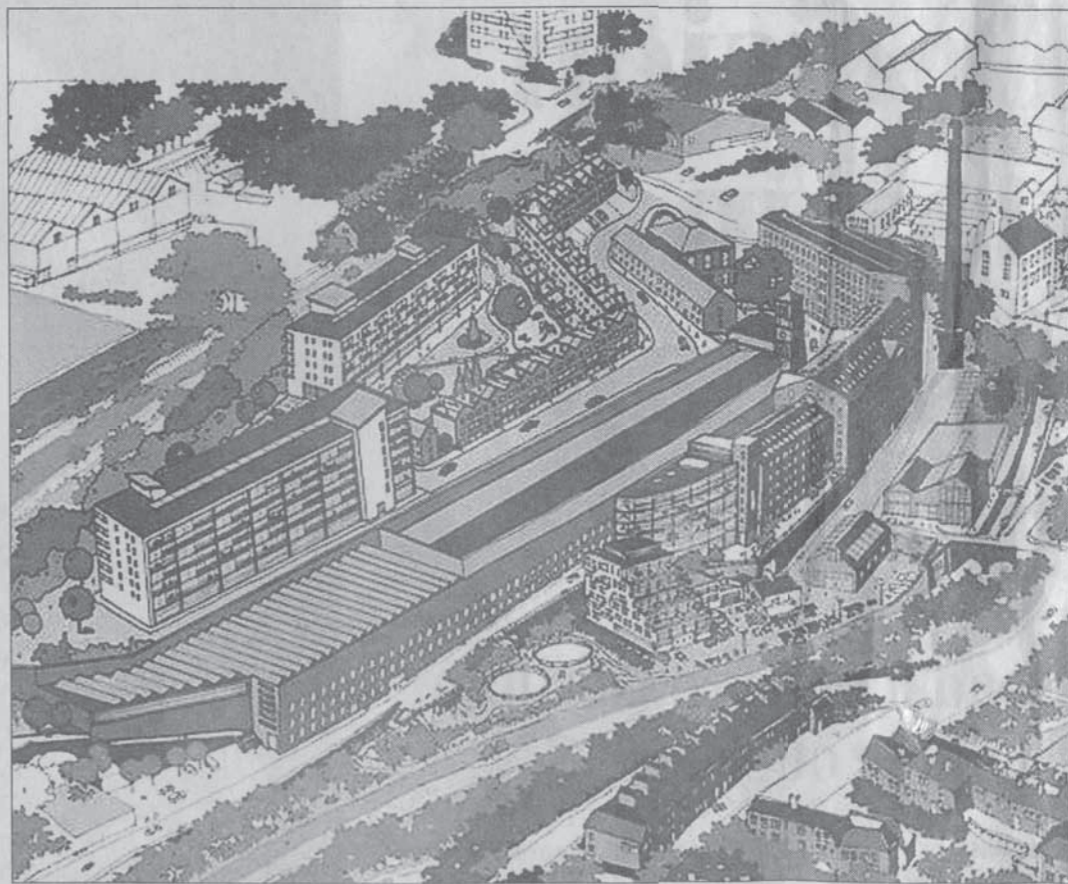
Mr Quarmby added: "We believe the revised plans address

the key concerns of councillors. Fewer housing units mean fewer cars, and improved access to the site will ensure traffic congestion is kept to a minimum.

"We have been very keen to involve the Halifax public in our scheme, which is why we embarked on the public consultation process last year.

"The feedback we have had from the public has been very encouraging and we believe this new scheme is right for the town." Members of the public will be able to see the model and plans for the scheme in the Victoria Hall, at Halifax Town Hall, during normal opening hours until Tuesday, January 29.

*lizzie.murphy@yprn.co.uk*



**VILLAGE PEOPLE:** A view of the plans for an urban village at the John Holdsworth factory at Shaw Lodge Mills, near Halifax.