

Autumn 1980, p.9.

Townsend Mill, Bromsgrove (grid reference SO 967720)

It will be recalled that this mill has been the subject of much dispute between the owner and the Bromsgrove District Council, with many other bodies including Avoncroft Museum of Buildings and our own Group, intervening from time to time. More recently we heard that Mr. Dennis Norton had made a very attractive proposal to re-erect the mill near his Norton Collection Museum at Davenal House, Bromsgrove. Meantime, however, the mill is becoming more and more derelict and will be harder than ever to rescue. It was not encouraging to read the following in the Bromsgrove Messenger for 25 July 1980: "An application to demolish the Townsend Mill in Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, is still being considered by Bromsgrove District Council.

The planning Committee this week deferred a decision on the request by the owner Mr. G.W. Adams to pull the listed building down.

Members decided to await the outcome of a scheme currently being discussed to reconstruct the mill elsewhere in the town."

D.G.T.

When told that the above report was being published in our Newsletter Mr and Mrs Dennis Norton kindly offered the following fuller commentary.

With reference to the report which appeared in the Bromsgrove Messenger recently, Mr. Norton has replied to the Council. In the letter he objected to the comments, pointing out that the demolition order had been applied for in 1979 and, at that particular time, an objection had been lodged in writing. At the same time, a proposal was put forward that Townsend Mill in its entirety be moved to the garden of Davenal House in order to restore it as a working mill. One of the common factors is that the stream on which the mill is at present sited is the same stream that also runs through the grounds of Davenal House. It was also pointed out that the restoration of this mill would mean that part of the heritage of Bromsgrove would not be lost to the present and future generations of the area.

It is hoped that it will be possible to have a joint meeting with Mr. Adams and Bromsgrove District Council to consider this idea in more detail.

Mr. Norton's interest goes back something like sixteen years when an approach was made to Mr. Adams (the owner of the property) to have the mill on a 10 year lease as a working mill and provide a home for the Norton Collection. This was not successful.

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