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LEISURE PLANS FOR OLD HALL

Welcome for hotel project

by Phil Shirley

AMBITIOUS plans to build a giant hotel and leisure complex on the site of a 16th century hall and 24 acres of parkland in South Cheshire have been given the thumbs up by borough planning chiefs this week.

The proposals, by Lawton Leisure Ltd, to transform the ancient Lawton Hall in Alsager into a modern leisure and business centre received the backing from Congleton borough's planning and development committee.

Lawton Hall, built in the 1500s when James I was on the throne and used by Charles II, was last

used as a private school five years ago and now stands derelict.

But developers say their plans for the hall will transform it into its original condition and save it from falling into ruin.

Mr Alan McGowan, from Hulme Upright and partners, the architects who are acting on behalf of

Lawton Leisure Ltd, said: "Our clients plan to refurbish the hall and convert it to a hotel, leisure and conference centre.

"The hotel will have 24 bedrooms with bathrooms en suite, and car parking facilities. The grounds are already landscaped and the development will create a very attrac-

tive hotel and leisure complex."

He added: "This project will thoroughly refurbish the hall with the outside of the building being restored to its original condition.

"The whole development will cost a considerable amount of money and bring employment into the area.

"The hall is in very poor condition at the moment and the sooner we start the project the better. We hope to commence work in April 1990."

Peter Taviner, Assistant Chief Planning Officer for Congleton Borough, said: "The committee are in favour of the proposals and are going along with the idea, but want further information on what will be involved in the development.

"Lawton Hall is a listed building, which makes it very important that it is set in attractive surroundings. We want to see it utilised.

Denise memorial

A permanent civic tribute to the courage and selfless work of leukaemia victim Denise Morse is to be unveiled tomorrow by the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Councillor Stan Bate.

Before her death Denise touched the hearts of the nation by devoting herself to the establishment of a British Bone Marrow Register which she hoped would help fellow leukaemia sufferers in their fight against the disease.

To mark Denise's achievement a memorial in the form of a walled seating area incorporating a commemorative plaque has been created within Penkhull Neighbourhood Park, Richmond Street, Penkhull.

Denise's husband Malcolm Morse and Malcolm Thomas, co-founder of the British Bone Marrow Register will join City Council leader Ron Sothorn, and other civic dignitaries at the unveiling of the plaque at 11.30am.

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