

We'll buy town hall to save it, say campaigners

By **SALLY LOWE**

CAMPAIGN group Crouch End for People is hoping to BUY Hornsey Town Hall to save it from being snapped up by developers.

Haringey Council is looking for a private developer to help transform the town hall into a mixture of community, business and residential uses.

The council says the cost of providing community facilities can only be met if profit can be generated by developing part of the site.

But campaigners insist the Town Hall could be run by a charitable trust which would not need to sell off any land.

Crouch End for People (CeFP) collected over £15,000 in donations last year to set up the Hornsey Town Hall Trust and hire a team of experts to draw up alternative plans to those put forward by Haringey Council.

The Hornsey Town Hall Trust now hopes to bid for the site when it is put out to tender by Haringey Council.

A CeFP spokeswoman said: "The Trust has proved that a community scheme using a charitable trust is a sound approach.

"A community scheme will avoid the over-development which a commercial residential property speculator would want.

"The Hornsey Town Hall Trust plans to make a formal bid which will avoid handing the Town Hall and its site to a developer."

Haringey Council is looking to set up a partnership group to work on the future of the Town Hall, and hopes to see residents get involved and work alongside the council.

Council bosses say they are looking for residents with a range of skills to advise on the development brief and help choose suitable developers.

Councillor Richard Milner, executive member for finance, said: "We're looking for local residents with the right set of skills to work with us.

"This is the important next step in securing the future of Hornsey Town Hall, with community facilities and the building restored to its former glory."