

Why firm objects to saving

old maltings

Saving Malt House Cottages, Reepham, and the old maltings behind would cost over £40,000, the owners, F. Randell & Co., said yesterday.

The cottages and the maltings were made listed buildings last year when Randell's first wanted to demolish them to make way for a parking area. Broadland District Council felt that the buildings were an important part of the street scene in a conservation area.

But Mr. Reg Randell, manager of the Reepham company, said yesterday that the cottages had been condemned in 1958, when the last tenants moved out.

ROTTEN BEAMS

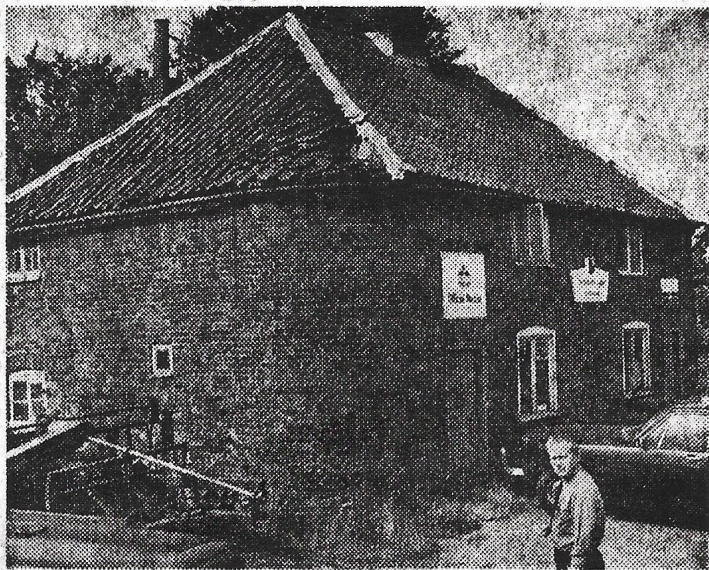
He said beams were rotten, the roof was falling in and the whole building was in poor condition.

The old maltings behind — once the brewery where Birchams produced beer for their local pubs — also had a rapidly-rotting roof, part of which had fallen in.

"To restore it completely would spoil the look of £40,000," said Mr. Randell.

He said that he wanted to demolish part of it, retaining the boundary walls, to make a parking area.

"Since 1931 we have had



Mr. Reg Randell, by the old maltings, Reepham.

access to these buildings and we have used them for workshops until the new ones were completed. Then we used them for partial storage but half the roof has come in and it's not watertight now, so we can't use it for storage."

Mr. Randell said that even if the buildings were restored they would not be suitable for storage "in modern trading conditions."

"It's just not a practical proposition," he said.

UNINSURED

On the council's suggestion that the cottages should be restored for someone to live in them, Mr. Randell commented: "It would cost a fortune. There is no water, no sewerage, no nothing. It's uninsured because the insurance company won't give us cover on it because it's unsafe."

Mr. Randell said he wanted to meet the council to find out

exactly what they proposed and to try to reach an agreement over the site.

In the planning committee decision being reported to the full Broadland District Council meeting today the committee refused the application to demolish the malt house and the cottages.

COMMITTEE VIEW

But the committee says that Randell's would be told what work was needed to preserve the buildings and that another application from the firm would be considered — if it only included plans to demolish the parts of the house which were unsafe, and for restoring the rest so that it could be used as a house or for storage.

But Mr. Randell said that this was not practical for the firm. "We have to have our business in one block," he said. "You can't have a building the other side of the road."

"We don't have any intention of using it at all. We shall appeal continuously until it comes down."

Newspaper Report
EDP 19 Aug 1975

Resident's Letter
undated

Reepham plaint

Sir—I note the powers that be have decided that the Old Malt-house and cottages opposite Randell's shop and factory here should be listed as of architectural interest. Have they walked up Ollands Road lately and seen the appalling mess that it is in? Not only is it like a derelict slum riddled full of holes, but it is downright dangerous and a traffic hazard for mothers with toddlers and elderly folk.

When we first moved here six years ago Ollands Road was a very narrow country road, with a high wall on one side, inside which were lovely grounds and a large house, also a lovely bowling green. We hoped that perhaps the council would buy it for a recreation ground and park for the Reepham people, also somewhere for people to walk their dogs. When I heard it was bought for the building of houses I was pleased to think that lots of families would live there with little gardens and nice homes.

Now it looks as though a bomb has been dropped on it and the road, being wider has great lorries and agricultural machinery up and down several times a day, and the condition of nearly all our house earthbanks has been ruined, flowers ripped out and great chunks of the bank knocked away. I love Reepham and feel very sad about the mess that the developers have made of our quiet road. I am sure if the Malthouse was demolished it would make room for a car park for Randell's huge agricultural vehicles and at least reduce one dangerous corner there.—Yours sincerely,

M. I. NEWMAN,

Shara Brae,
6 Ollands Lane,
Reepham.