



THE 100M DREAM: Artist's impression of Manor Hill.

Manor developers ask for more time

Work cannot start until council awards casino licence

DEVELOPERS behind a £100m riverside complex in the city centre are calling for more time to start building work on the site.

The Manor Mill scheme next to Drypool Bridge was granted planning permission in December 2008 on condition that construction should start within two years.

But work has yet to get under way because the city council has yet to start the process of awarding a licence for a proposed new casino in the city.

The scheme's North Ferriby-based developers Manor Property Group has already teamed up with international group Apollo Resorts and Leisure to include a casino in the development, subject to securing an operating licence.

The scheme's planning permission includes the provision of a casino on three levels of a nine-storey building.

Earlier this year Manor confirmed that international hotel chain Marriott had also signed up to occupy an 185-bed hotel in the develop-

InShort

Additional time to start construction work at Hull's Manor Mill scheme, next to Drypool Bridge, is being asked for by the project's developers.

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ment. Now the company has submitted a new planning application seeking to extend the original starting time limit to five years.

Managing director Philip Akrill said: "It all really hinges on the casino application. We need the extension in order to apply for the licence.

"We have bought the site so our commitment to develop it is there but the two-year time limit is not in sync with the council's own timetable for awarding the casino licence.

"I don't want to criticise the council because I think they are doing all they can with the licensing because it is a very complicated process.

From flour mill to Manor Mill

■ The £100m Manor Mill development is earmarked for a site currently occupied by the derelict former Clarence flour mill.

■ The scheme is expected to create 1,000 new jobs and is made up of a number of different elements, including a casino, a hotel, five new restaurants and a 23-storey apartment block.

■ Other features include

student accommodation and new public areas on the waterfront.

■ The proposed casino will be operated by Apollo Resorts and Leisure, which has already announced its intention to apply for the new so-called large casino licence for Hull.

■ The city council is expected to invite applications for the licence later this year.

"We are involved with five casino schemes with Apollo around the country and Hull is in the middle.

Two are in front of Hull and two are behind.

"Apollo is quite happy with the way things are going here but we've been told applications for the Hull licence are not going to be invited until November and a final decision could be another 12 months on from then."

Mr Akrill said the original decision by the planning committee to impose a two-year deadline on starting the scheme had come out of the blue. He said: "It wasn't something we were expecting

but we have had to live with it. There will potentially be other applications for the casino licence but Apollo and ourselves are confident that Manor Mill is the right scheme.

"If it goes elsewhere then we will obviously have to redesign the development."

The new application is expected to be considered by planning councillors later this summer.

Links

Manor Mill

www.manorpropertygroup.com

Hull City Council

www.hullcc.gov.uk