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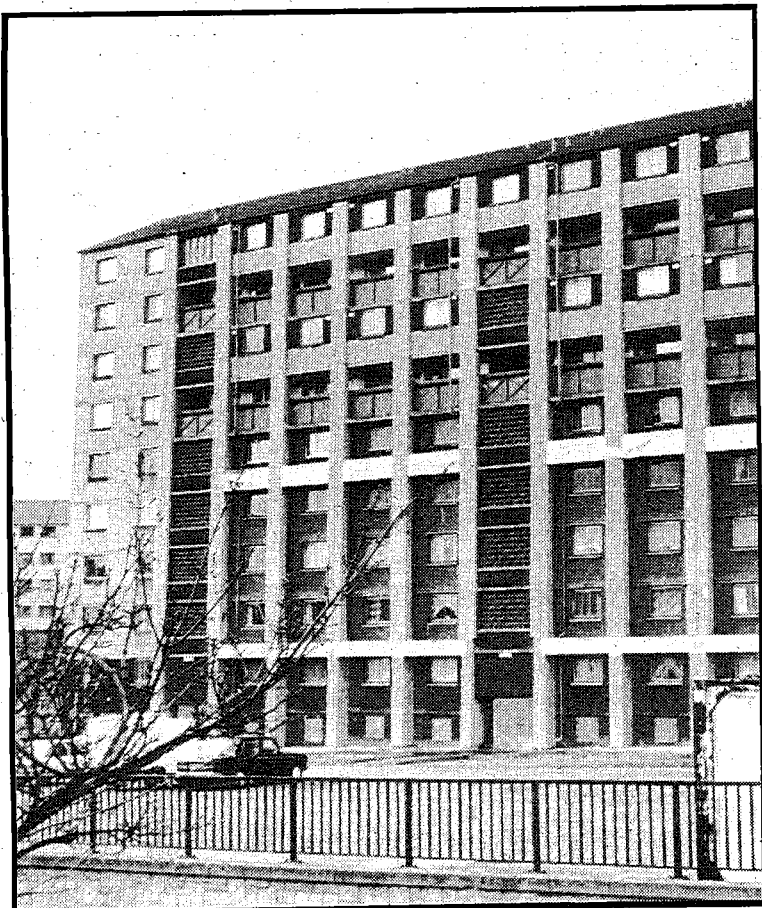
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THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

BRING THEM DOWN



DOOMED

*The Park and Drive High Rise
look set to come down*

The results of a shock survey on the state of eight high-rise blocks in Wester Hailes has led to a call for their demolition.

Following the publication of a report by the Holmes Jack Partnership tenants of the Wester Hailes Park and Drive multi-storeys have joined

forces with Edinburgh's Council leader in demanding that the flats be pulled down.

The report highlights several structural and design faults which could cost nearly £40 million pounds to put right.

According to Holmes Jack the blocks suffer from:

Structural problems

Massive heat loss leading to condensation

Poor sound proofing

Lack of adequate safety measures in event of a fire

Lead soldering in water pipes

Sub-standard electrical wiring

Shirley Stimson, convenor of the Wester Hailes High Rise Action Group, welcomed the report's findings. She said: "I hope this survey will result in us getting what we want - which is for the blocks to be demolished.

"However, in the short term we have to ensure that the blocks are made habitable."

Ms Stimson accused Edinburgh District Council of taking too long to accept that

SENTINEL EXCLUSIVE

the blocks were suffering from severe problems. "I only hope it doesn't take them so long to demolish them," she added.

Local councillor, and leader of Edinburgh's Labour administration, Mark Lazarowicz echoed Ms Stimson's view that the blocks must come down, and he called for the Government to provide the money to allow demolition.

DECISION

He said: "The report shows that these blocks cannot be saved. They must come down. It will take some time before people can be rehoused, but it is important that a decision is taken as soon as possible about their future, and that local organisations join with the council in pressing for money to allow decent homes to be built in their place."

And at a recent meeting of the Wester Hailes Partnership it was agreed in, light of the report, to set up a working party to investigate methods of ensuring that short term improvements are carried out, and to look at the demolition of the flats.

THE FESTIVAL OF FUN - SEE PAGE 6