

11/1/84

BURTON MAIL, WEDNESDAY,

MY FAULT!

Education chief admits mistakes

Staffordshire's Education chief has reacted to the discovery that figures in a county council document were wrong.

Chief Education Officer Tom Hadley was told of numerous mistakes in the report on post primary education 1985-90, most of which he was responsible for.

The report concerns secondary education in the county, including the Burton area and the suggestion that the Forest of Needwood School, Rolleston, might close and merge with Burton's Wulfric School.

The document will be used as the basis for discussion of any school closures over the next few years, but would be subject to alteration, said Mr Hadley.

PREPARED

It contains important figures on projected school rolls, and it is in these tables that mistakes were made, as reported in the Mail yesterday.

Mr Hadley accepted the mistakes without argument. He said the document had been hurriedly prepared, and no doubt typing errors had occurred. He said all the errors

would be corrected during county discussions.

Tutbury Parish Council, which discovered the errors, also pointed out that county estimates of extra pupils from new development were wrong.

Instead of 100 new pupils per school year from 2,000 new homes forecast by 1991, the county forecast only 35 per school year. This meant a much smaller intake and indicated only one third of new homes would produce children.

Mr Hadley said this was because many of the new homes would be occupied by families moving within the area, and not coming in from outside.

CONCERNED

He said a third was the tried and trusted figure for estimating pupil increases from new development.

Another criticism made by Tutbury councillors concerned lack of detail in the section of the report for Burton schools.

The report did not give

detailed figures for new development nor did it give a detailed summary of the catchment for individual schools.

Mr Hadley was asked if details of catchment areas would be made available. He said existing catchment areas could be completely changed, they were not that useful, but details would be made available on request.

So far, no-one had asked for them, he said.

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