

# Threat brings apology plea

Rolleston Parish Council is to go ahead with cash help to save Rolleston's Forest of Needwood High School — despite an alleged complaint from a member of Staffordshire Education Department.

At an earlier meeting the council had decided to give £250 to the campaign to save the school from closure.

He did not know who had made the objection.

He said it was of no interest to anyone who was not a rate-payer in Rolleston how the council spent its money.

Chairman Councillor Frank Bather said: "We are conducting our business properly and loyally."

The parish council is also to register with the County Council as an interested group to ensure it is consulted at every stage of the matter.

Councillor John Carlton is also attending a meeting of the school governors tonight and will put forward the parish council's objections to the closure.

## BUSINESS

However, Councillor John Carlton told last night's meeting: "Following a Press report saying we were prepared to give £250 to the school's fighting fund some official from the education authority contacted the school objecting to the fact that the parish council made this offer and they threatened to call in the district auditors."

"We should demand an apology from the county council."

14/2/84

MAIL

BURTON

# Wulfric hits back

Governors of Burton's Wulfric School have supported the proposed closure of sister school, the Forest of Needwood, at Rolleston.

the county council by central government and the problems that arise from the location of the high schools.

"With these considerations in mind the governors have examined as objectively as possible alternative options suggested by the education committee of the county council and other proposals.

## SITE

"The governors have concluded that the preferred option outlined by the education committee is the one that is most acceptable.

"This recommends the amalgamation of the Forest of Needwood High School with the Wulfric School on the Wulfric site."

A row broke out between the two schools when the Forest of Needwood governors presented a plan to save the school which would result in the closure of Wulfric.

The arguments put forward by the Wulfric governors say

In a long letter to parents, the governors have explained why Wulfric should remain open and the Rolleston school should shut.

The letter, signed by the chairman of the governors Councillor George Callister, says the closure of Forest and transfer of pupils to Wulfric would best serve the future educational interests of the area.

The letter says: "The governors... are very aware of the fact of the falling school rolls in Staffordshire, the economic constraints placed on

## WEATHER

**RATHER** cloudy. Isolated showers dying out. Wind southerly moderate increasing fresh. Rather cold, max temps 4 to 6C (39 to 43F).

**LIGHTING-UP** times: 5.52 pm to 6.49 am.

● Turn to P2

17/2/84

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