

# Wulfric hits back

● From P1

that Wulfric is in a more central position and can cope with up to 250 new pupils a year.

In 1989-90 its estimated 1,500 places would provide the capacity to cater for any extra pupils if housing developments in the area produce more than the expected number.

## NUMBERS

To be viable, Forest of Needwood would need a wider catchment area which would extend close to Wulfric and its primary feeder schools. The governors also argue that Wulfric has 90 members of staff and Forest of Needwood 60.

If Wulfric is kept with its projected numbers and staff requirements then the problem of moving staff would be less than if the Forest remained open and 90 staff had to be resettled.

The governors say that there is no problem with Wulfric being a split-site school; in fact it reduces the problems associated with a large single unit.

The advantages of Wulfric are also pointed out in the letter: "Wulfric is one of the largest schools in Staffordshire, with modern buildings and extensive facilities and one which, despite the general decline in entry in the 1980s will still be viable in the 1990s.

"It is an 11-18 comprehensive school in the best sense of that description.

## RANGE

"The catchment area is certainly representative of the population of the town in the broadest sense of the word.

"Pupils are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and abilities, and the school provides the care, opportunities, facilities and guidance to meet the diversity of need."

The school also hosts a wide range of extra curricular activities including Burton Operatic Society, Burton Athletics Club, a youth club, an evening centre and also boasts an all-weather training track.

# FOREST'S MISSING FACTORS

The community value of the Forest of Needwood High School at Rolleston was not considered when the document calling for its closure was drawn up.

This discovery was made by the school governors when they questioned the Assistant Area Education Officer for Burton, Mr Bert Evans.

It was also established during the meeting that no information was available on proposed new catchment areas and that the authority had not yet defined its strategy for dealing with the difficulties of the transition period between one school closing and the completion of the new school.

It is these two matters which are causing most concern among the governors. The section of their document, outlining reasons for keeping the school, relating to catchment areas and the transition period was handed to Mr Evans.

The governors agreed that as Staffordshire County Council had no specific policies on this matter they should study the governors' proposals carefully and provide some positive answers.

# Americans pull out

President expects approval

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CHECK YOUR CARDS