

# Burton

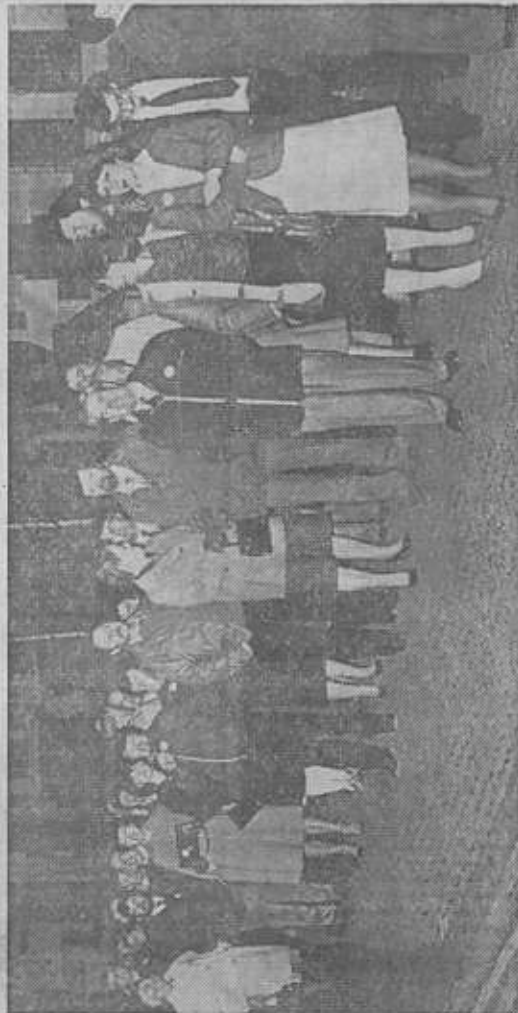
# Mail

SHROVE  
TUESDAY  
CONTEST  
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Price 14p

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1984

No. 26,770



● Waiting to be let in — part of the crowd outside Burton Town Hall last night.

## PARENTS AND TEACHERS PACK PROTEST MEETING

Parents and teachers packed Burton Town Hall to bursting point last night to discuss the future of schools in the district.

People started queuing at 5.45 pm — 1½ hours before the meeting was scheduled to start — and by the time the doors opened the queue was several hundred yards long.

Many people failed to get into the hall which had a capacity of 600, with a further 300 in two overspill rooms.

And although the meeting lasted for three

hours and a lot of questions were asked, many people felt they did not get satisfactory answers.

Most of those present, identified by their orange "Save the Forest" badges, were fighting to prevent the possible closure of Rolleston's Forest of Needwood, and they punctuated every mention of the school with loud bursts of clapping.

Most of the others came from Wulfric, which would be amalgamated with the Forest on the Horninglow site if the county council's preferred option was accepted.

## When is a town not a town?

Ashby Woulds has a town council — but it isn't a town.

This was the basic premise behind a move to alter the civic status of Ashby Woulds to a parish council.

Behind the move was Councillor Bill Koppe, who told members that the status of town council "gave no prestige" to the district.

Quoting from a dictionary, Councillor Koppe gave fellow members the definition of a mayor: chief magistrate of a city, borough or town.

"I don't see how we can call Moira, Spring Cottage and Albert Village a town," he said.

Ibstock was four times as big as Ashby Woulds, but that was a parish.

But Councillor Brian Morris had a different point of view. There was a town in Wales with only 40 people, he said.

Ashby Woulds owned its playing fields and had its own freeman. And it had been Ashby Woulds Town Council which had invented the idea of jubilee awards, an idea which had been copied by bigger councils.

It was agreed to remain a town council.

### WEATHER

**RATHER** cloudy, mainly dry. Patchy overnight fog. Wind variable, becoming northerly, light. Mild, maximum temperatures 11-13C (52-55F).

LIGHTING-UP TIMES: 6.24 pm to 6.11 am.

Due to the polarisation caused by these two large groups the meeting often threatened to slip into a Wulfric v Forest argument, although chairmen of the respective governors saved it from becoming a slanging match.

Although the meeting was supposed to discuss all schools in Burton, representatives of the Paget, Paulet, Abbot Beyne, and Robert Sutton barely got a look in.

At times the discussion got heated and the small group of Staffordshire education officers and members seemed overwhelmed by the barrage of

Over 200 people were left standing outside the door after the start of last night's schools meeting at Burton Town Hall.

Two of those locked out were Councillor Bill Crossley, Chairman of Tutbury Parish Council and County Councillor Dave Morris.

"I am sending an official letter of complaint to the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of Education about the poor arrangement of the meeting.

"I travelled all the way from Derby and got there at 7 pm. Many people who run businesses would not have been able to get there any earlier.

"They could have hired the canteen at Pirelli in Stretton which holds about 2,000."

questions and vast public interest.

The debate was launched by Staffordshire Education Committee Chairman Councillor Bob Cant, who said that no decision had yet been taken and that the county council could change its mind if public opinion was strong enough and alternative plans prepared.

And Deputy Chief Education Officer Alan O'Donnell said it was definite that one school would close in Burton and that it was possible another could close in the near future.

"The case for maintaining a decent educational level in Burton depends on the closure of a school," he said.

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