

# Burton Mail

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## THE ENDS?



KAREN  
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REPORTS



The axe is poised and ready to fall on the Forest of Needwood High School at Rolleston.

The ruling Labour group at Staffordshire County Council yesterday adopted the proposal to amalgamate the Forest with The Wulfric School at Horninglow with the eventual closure of the Rolleston school.

The matter now goes before a meeting of the Education Committee on Wednesday before going to Secretary of State for Education Sir Keith Joseph, who has the final say.

● How the battle to save Forest of Needwood High School has been fought — and, it is feared, lost.

# LABOUR SANCTIONS FOREST CLOSURE

Burton Councillor Roger Wright, who was at the meeting, said there had been some discussion over the proposal before the final decision was reached.

He said closing the school was a step in the right direction for education in Burton.

"It is not the final solution for Burton in the long run but it is absolutely essential as a first step. A school has to go and the Forest is the least damaging one to take out," said Councillor Wright.

## OPENING

If the closure goes ahead, both schools will close on August 31, 1985 and the new school will open the following day on the Wulfric site.

There will then be a steady run down at the Rolleston school with no pupils taken in after the opening of the new school.

Councillor Wright said that existing staff at both schools would make up the staff at the new school and no jobs would be lost.

Teachers could, however, find themselves working on both the Wulfric and Forest sites during the transitional period.

The community facilities at Forest are being considered by councillors, along with other schools under threat in the county.

The Labour Group yesterday asked officers to compile a report putting forward alternative ideas for housing community activities.

The Forest is home to a 1,000 strong youth club and 700 adults attend evening institute classes at the school.

● Turn to p2

## WEATHER

RAIN at first, showers becoming heavy and thundery tomorrow. Wind southerly, light or moderate. Rather cool, max temp 15-17C (59 to 63F).

LIGHTING-UP TIMES: 9.49 pm to 4.20 am.

## THE END?

● From p1

Councillor Wright said the council would be making sure organisations throughout the county in this situation would not get worse conditions or facilities than they have already.

He also said the question of what might be done with unwanted school buildings would not be considered until the youth and community aspects had been cleared up.

No decision has yet been made on new catchment areas either. When they are decided, Horninglow parents who expected their children to attend Wulfric could find them sent elsewhere in Burton. All schools would have an increase in pupil numbers, said Councillor Wright.

## DECISION

He said that in the long term in Burton the council would probably be looking to a tertiary system of education.

He also said the decision to be made by the Secretary of State was by no means cut and dried.

"He said 'no' to Staffordshire County Council over the closure

of the school at Hoar Cross and he could do so again. People will want to influence him and he could use parental preferences as a reason for retaining it."

If Sir Keith Joseph refuses to allow the closure of the school it will mean a re-think for county councillors.

Councillor Wright said if the Forest was kept open councillors would be taking another look at the John Taylor School at Barton.

Mr Ken Green, Chairman of the Forest of Needwood School Governors, who has led the campaign to save the school said this morning the news was disappointing but not totally unexpected.

"We will now be taking the matter to the Department of Education and Sir Keith Joseph and we will win," he said.

## Tools taken

Garden tools worth £10 were stolen from Waterloo Street, Burton. Mrs Dorothy Woodings lost a 25ft long green hosepipe with yellow nozzle and a pair of shears with burgundy handles.