

FOREST COURT BATTLE LOOMS

BY KAREN LOCKHART

The governors of the Forest of Needwood High School, Rolleston, are prepared to take their fight to save the school to the High Court.

They plan to take legal advice and, if possible, take the matter to the High Court and apply for a judicial review.

The school is destined to close in 1989 with all new pupils from September this year attending a new school to be created on the Wulfric School sites in Horninglow.

The decision to continue the fight was unanimously agreed at an informal meeting of the governors last night.

Mr Ken Green, Chairman of the Forest governors, said previous court cases had been won on the grounds that there had been insufficient consultation.

Mr Green said the consultation regarding the Forest had been a disgrace and if some recent news on the new school catchment areas had been revealed right at the start opposition to the Forest closure would have been far more vehement.

Mr Green said throughout the fight so far the Forest had stood virtually alone in its battle with both local and national bureaucrats.

"This situation has now changed. At the very beginning of the struggle we tried to persuade other schools and parents of the effect the local authority proposals would have on them.

"Unfortunately they were suspicious of our intentions and in no uncertain terms they said so.

"These implications as far as other Burton schools and parents are concerned are now becoming all too apparent and I feel we will receive much more support in the fight to ensure that parents have the right to choose their children's school," said Mr Green.