

11.6.85

# SCHOOL'S BATTLE GOES ON

Financial help for a proposed court battle to save the Forest of Needwood High School at Rolleston has come from the village parish council.

The school governors are seeking legal guidance in a last ditch attempt to save the school.

It will cost £1,700 to learn if they have a case and the parish council has agreed to give £100 initially with more to follow should it be needed.

The brunt of the cost will be met by the school Parent-

Teacher Association and village youth club and it is understood the finance question will be discussed at an extraordinary meeting of the PTA tonight.

Parents have been invited to the meeting but details of the agenda have not been given to them.

The school is due to amalgamate with the Wulfric in Horninglow with the Forest site closing 1989. This decision has been endorsed by both the Education Secretary Sir Keith Joseph and the Prime Minister.

Parish councillors, along with other village organisations, have decided the fight should go on.

A firm of solicitors has been employed and by June 19 they will have decided if the

governors have a case to fight.

Chairman of the Forest governors Mr Ken Green said the Parish Council was premature in thinking of the future of the school buildings — the fight was not over yet.

Councillors agreed having taken the fight this far it was worth seeking the advice of counsel.

# BUT 11 JUN 1985 JUST IN CASE . . .

Rolleston Parish Council has already expressed an interest in the future of the buildings which make up the Forest of Needwood High School in the village.

Council Chairman Councillor Mike Moseley said it was worth writing to the county council now showing an interest in the buildings' future and asking to be included in discussions.

Councillor Marek Trelinski said he would like to see part of the buildings retained as a village centre.

The council should be thinking about facilities for the village youth club and evening institute and a parish office.

#### ANYWHERE

Councillor Trelinski also wanted to see sports facilities kept on and suggested contacting the National Playing Fields Association and asking how they should attempt to keep them.

East Staffordshire District Council should also be asked if it would consider financing a sports facility in the village bearing in mind there were facilities in Burton and Uttoxeter but none anywhere else.

Councillor Moseley said he would like to know the views of villagers before committing the village to the cost of running any such centre.

The council agreed a letter should be sent to the county council.

## Will fight go on?

A decision on whether or not the fight to save the Forest of Needwood School should go to court could be made tomorrow.

Friends, parents and future parents or anyone with an interest in the doomed Rolleston school is invited to attend a meeting tomorrow night to debate the question of going to court.

At a cost of £1,700 met mainly by the school Parent-Teacher Association, a firm of solicitors has been employed to investigate whether or not the school has a case. The findings will be reported to tomorrow's meeting.

Should the news be favourable the governors plan to seek a judicial review of the decision to close the school.

The views of everyone connected in any way with the school are wanted before any further action is taken.

The Forest of Needwood School is due to amalgamate with the Wulfric School at Horninglow with a new school being created on the Wulfric sites. The Forest buildings would close in 1989.

The decision to close the school was announced 20 months ago and the governors, under the leadership of Mr Ken Green, have been fighting ever since.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm at the Forest of Needwood in Station Road, Rolleston.

gifts for readers — se

BURTON MAIL 19th JUNE 1985