

Residents tell Oxford uni: hands off our village hall



Support...front, Nora Watts (87) with the 1953 coronation plaque with protesters outside Tur Langton village hall. (Picture: Andrew Carpenter/001397-39)

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VILLAGERS are concerned about the future of their village hall after plans were drawn up to build on the site where it is located.

Merton College, Oxford own the land on which Tur Langton Village Hall is sited and now the college has drawn up plans for building on the site.

The first village hall was sited in Tur Langton in 1920 but the land was sold to Merton College in 1936.

In 1970 Merton College agreed to a new lease of the land until March 2010 and a new purpose built village hall was opened in April 1972.

A protest was organised by the Village Hall Action Group on Saturday when young and old members of the community turned out in force to protest against the possible closure of their hall.

Chris Weston, who is part of the campaign to save the hall, said: "There has been a village hall there for nearly 100 years and the hall is a vital social facility for the village for this and future generations to combat rural isolation."

Mr Weston said that Harborough District Council has informed them that the site is classed as community use and will remain so for as long as it is required by the community.

“You are urged to attend this meeting to demonstrate that there is a will in the village to retain and improve the hall.”

Villagers wanting to attend the meeting should be at the hall no later than 7.15pm to hear the discussion between the Parish Council and Merton College.

The Mail attempted to contact Merton College but there was nobody available for comment in time for our deadline.