

Youngsters doing their bit for farm

A Market Drayton school student is doing her bit to help save an organic farm by campaigning in the classroom.

Sixth form pupil Alice Janes, of the Grove School, is campaigning around the town secondary school to help raise awareness of the Fordhall Community Land Initiative.

Campaigners are fighting to save the organic farm and need to raise around

£800,000 to secure its future and stop it being sold off to developers.

Farmers Charlotte and Ben Hollins are trying to raise the cash and if the trust buys the land the sister and brother will stay on as tenants but the farm will be community owned.

Alice is currently giving assemblies to the students, putting up displays and collecting change in buckets towards the project.

Miss Hollins said: "She heard about the project and contacted us at the farm asking if she could organise a campaign at the Grove to help raise funds.

"This is what Fordhall is all about - the community taking on Fordhall themselves because they believe in it and want to be part of it.

"The Fordhall Community Land Initiative is all about placing the land at

Fordhall into community ownership for the benefit of the community.

"The fact that young people are so interested in its future is inspiring and sets an example for us all."

If the cash is secured then it is also hoped to transform Fordhall into an educational and social resource helping to reconnect people and children to food and farming.

The siblings are selling shares in the farm at £50 each and they have raised more than £60,000, which includes a £20,000 grant from the Shropshire Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, distributed by Shropshire County Council.

They also have a bid in for a £450,000 landfill tax grant.

For further information about the farm or the trust people can go to www.fordhallfarm.com or call 01630 638696.



Grove students Jordan Chevins (centre) and Ollie Sterling, and Alice Janes who are campaigning in support of Fordhall Farm.

AVS