

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

17 January 2012

Public Participation

Statement from Mr Arnold Lowrey, Cardiff

Proposed Creation of Central Devizes Customer Access Point and the Closure of Browfort, Urchfont Manor and Bradley Road Buildings (Item 9)

Statement

I have been an art tutor at Urchfont Manor for the last sixteen years, so was totally shocked and dismayed at the news, last night that it was to be sold.

This establishment is the jewel in the Wiltshire crown and to consider selling it when business is already starting to pick up again seems an act of madness and wanton vandalism. Bookings for various events are increasing, for example, my

Apart from the high standards of teaching which have been developed over the years, I feel "the experience" puts Wiltshire on the map which is an uncoded asset to tourism and business opportunity for the County.

I understand that profits for Wiltshire C C from Urchfont are recovering already, so any short term gains will be at the expense of the sale of the "family jewels." It has taken years to build a team of highly skilled people and Urchfont runs smoothly and efficiently.

I have heard it said that the Council has suggested that a considerable number of courses could be run in the local libraries. This would be totally impractical as students come for both the course content and social atmosphere. They are not going to travel far to attend a library or sports complex!

Please think, think again before it is too late.