

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

17 January 2012

Public Participation

Statement from Hilary M Garrett, Burnley

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

Statement

My name is Hilary Garrett and I live in Burnley in Lancashire. I have been coming to Urchfont as a student of Fine Art for the last 7 years. I come usually 3 times per year.

As a woman from a working class background I found my world shift and a whole new horizon open up to me from the very first study course I attended at Urchfont Manor.

I see the world differently and have learned to explore ideas and express myself through drawing and painting. I am sure there will be many more people out there who have similar experiences from their encounters at Urchfont Manor.

I am now selling my work in Lancashire, Yorkshire and in Wiltshire.

It would be a travesty of all that is good in education and for society to close the manor.

Please look at alternatives. Higham Hall in Cumbria was formed into a charitable trust with the help of Cumbria County Council and now stands alone and is self supporting.

I implore you on behalf of all those people who have benefited so much from Urchfont Manor to be creative and find a way of keeping the Manor open.