Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

17 January 2012

Public Participation

Statement from Ms Catherine Brown

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

Statement

I am writing this as I cannot understand the idea of the manor being sold, This wonderful building and beautiful surroundings offers so much to so many people, I'm aware that the idea of adult education is not a main priority in the council, but what the manor holds is unique, we have a place in the country not the hustle and bustle of a town where people can not only come to learn they can also unwind and relax, in today's society that is just as important as the learning its self, This applies to day groups, those that may just stay one night, weekends and those that take part on week long courses. The older generation benefit greatly from this, having the opportunity to stay away for a couple of days in a relaxing environment while being able to participate in activities that keeps the mind active. This is something that cannot be achieved in a busy normal college setting that is in a town or city.

 There are very few provisions/opportunities/jobs in rural community's today more often they are the ones to suffer, most you have to go into a town for, This is an established business that is popular, well used and well loved this is proven by the people that come back again and again, It is one that the council should be proud of saying they own not thinking of selling. Money is to be spent on building new and upgrading existing buildings for campuses mainly in town settings. You have a successful provision here in Urchfont that benefits so many people but money needs to be spent on to upgrade it, rather than looking at selling this really is one time your money would be well spent, look after what you already have . You are in a unique privileged position to own this estate as a college, probably one of the few like it in the country, be proud of it, love it(upgrade), and it will grow.