

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

17 January 2012 (morning meeting)

Public Participation

Statement from Mrs Janet Crowther, Kent

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

Statement

Urchfont Manor is a unique establishment that offers immense opportunities for adults to extend their learning experiences. It offers a wide base of courses, the fact that many are residential is an additional benefit for the very many students who travel from across the country to attend.

Urchfont Manor should be the Jewel in Wiltshire's Crown. It could be said that the Council have been negligent for many years as they have failed to maintain the property to the standard that they are now saying is needed for an adult education establishment. I have attended many long courses at Urchfont since 1986, mainly as a student and now as a tutor. You will never be able to replace Urchfont Manor, and I suspect the Members have no wish to. It will be a very sad day for all the very many students, tutors, staff, and all the outside agencies that are involved with the College, should it be closed. The monetary gain for the County, seems small compared with the loss to adults who wish to improve themselves educationally.

I brave the M25 on a Friday evening, at least ten times a year, many of which are in the dark of winter, knowing that at the end of my journey the tranquility, inspiration, education and friendship provided by Urchfont Manor is waiting.