

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

17 January 2012 (morning meeting)

Public Participation

Statement from Mr John Blunden of Urchfont

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

Statement

The recent announcement that the County Council is seeking to dispose of Urchfont Manor has come as a shock to many of us here in Urchfont.

It is not clear if the reason is because the running costs are greater than the income or that it simply represents a desire to capitalise on a marketable asset.

We are all aware of the necessity to cut public spending wherever possible:
however, the loss of a facility dedicated to the furtherance of learning, study and skills is surely something that should be very carefully considered.

I am not disputing the efficacy of any decision the Council may make on our behalf but feel we should be acquainted with the facts leading to a possible decision which may have a profound effect not just upon the people in Urchfont but upon the wider community in Wiltshire and even across the country as a whole.