

Statement from Adrian Temple-Brown
Agenda Item 13 Future Chippenham Update

To Councillor Philip Whitehead Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Statement

In one of the small villages near Calne yesterday an old lady asked of her Hermes delivery lady “how will I get food now I have to stay at home because of this virus emergency?”

She was stood next to her old husband and she was in tears.

Today, here at this Cabinet meeting, there are 14 *Business as Usual* agenda Items.

There is

- No agenda item for the Climate emergency
- No agenda item for the Ecological emergency
- No agenda item for the Covid-19 emergency

My perception of any council is that is it made up of upstanding, decent adults who care about people and the community they live in. My understanding is that the status of a councillor comes with a level of responsibility and a level of community leadership. My observation of this cabinet is that it is primarily concerned with *growth*.

Wiltshire Council directly links to Chippenham Town Council, which is made up of councillors elected from small, defined wards.

Local Government *could* co-ordinate assistance for the vulnerable at the Ward level, with support to each Ward councillor via each Town Council.

The System of local government is in place and it is fully operational.

But this cabinet does not recognise the meaning of the word “emergency”, its core policy and focus is *economic growth*.

I have not had a single communication from any Local Government level on Covid-19.

But much, *much* more importantly, neither has the old man who lives far away from local government - and nor has his wife, the old lady, who spoke through her tears.