

Time to bring closed toilet blocks back into use

JANET Turner's letter (July 3) makes an excellent point about the abandoned toilet blocks in Frome.

I am trying to work with Mendip District Council to persuade them to help me to convert one of these buildings into a community group venue for the Frome Men's Shed. There are other similar properties to Cork Street and Gorehedge at Merchants Barton and Badcox.

As Mendip has resisted meeting with me to discuss this since April, I attended the council meeting responsible for Mendip-owned property on the June 9 and asked the question: "Is it council policy to optimise (or just maximise)

revenue from publicly owned assets in Mendip? Does this goal absolutely override any community development, health, environmental or sustainability considerations? How does it address the use of vacant and abandoned properties?"

I have not yet received an answer to my question. I would urge readers of the *Frome Standard* to contact their district councillor and ask them the same question.

I would also welcome information from anyone who knows when these four properties were closed.

**Patrick Abrahams
Butts Hill
Frome**

■ I REFER to Janet Turner's letter in last week's paper about the use of the derelict toilets in Frome... all owned by Mendip.

I agree with her wholeheartedly, most of these toilets have remained empty for many years and are eyesores. Together they are a blight on the town.

There have been several campaigns aimed at forcing Mendip to do something about these buildings. The town council even offered to take over the buildings for free in order to find tenants.

Several prospective users have come and gone, frightened off by an unresponsive bureaucracy.

Only the "blue toilets" in the Market Yard Car Park have been put to use and that occurred solely because of the vision and persistence of one local individual, Katy Duke. Nothing has happened to the rest, they remain as sad as ever.

Not only is this an opportunity lost but I think it's incumbent on all public bodies to make best use of their assets and to have a district council owning the four most derelict buildings in the town really says a lot about how much they care about Frome.

**Mel Usher
Leader of Frome Town
Council**