

Chairman, Councillors,

Three minutes is a relatively short time to express myself on a matter that has become very, very important to the majority of Westfield residents and which has become a significant talking point amongst them.....

This petition represents a significant cross section of residents, but the overwhelming response has even taken me by surprise...

It is not a plea to reverse historic decisions, because the Sainsbury's project at St Peter's Factory, Wells Road, Westfield – otherwise known as 'Continuform', must now be considered as lost following the rejection of the planning permission at the end of last year....

It is a plea for Bath & NES to reconsider the basis of that decision and to formulate a policy that will actively encourage the creation of a significant retail opportunity that will form the basis of a centre for our community.

Unlike its neighbouring parishes Westfield has no point of focus for its community and the residents had assumed that a major supermarket would introduce a source of employment, and create a new stratum of energy into the community, and on that basis become the base line from which a vibrant community could develop.

Residents were stunned when that opportunity was taken away please let's all learn from this, and decide how this simple and rather fundamental wish can be achieved.....