

**Cabinet 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**Ron Hopkins**

Chairman, Councillors,

Cllr Sue Hamilton asked me to support her this evening whilst she presented her petition and her vision of the future for Westfield.

I was happy to do that because as a resident I was in one mind with many of the residents of this relatively new parish in that we want to see a vibrant community allowing the residents to meet and interface with each other in a non-formal setting, rather like it would have been in the times when it was a thriving mining community..

A romantic view.....?

Yes possibly, but one that was becoming to be seen as a reality by the community until it was rather unfortunately and some say cruelly snatched away...

I would ask you to remember the existing CFH (Continuform) employment on the proposed development site was never going to be lost, it was to be transferred to a brand new purpose built facility less than a mile away, and this huge commitment to the area by the company would have been a significant endorsement for Westfield.

On the same basis please accept that the supermarket would have created new jobs in a community reaching out in every direction for opportunities.

What is done, is done, and the opportunities presented by the original proposals are sadly lost, but we appeal to the cabinet to learn from this and move forward by preparing a strategy that will opening up the possibility of a similar retail proposal somewhere in Westfield to be considered with an open mind, and indeed please don't just slam the door in favour of building another retail superstore in a nearby town that already has an oversupply of those.

Thanks for your time and patience; please find the time to consider our proposals they are put before you in genuine concern.