

# Visteon Update

April 29<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Workers of Swansea and Belfast Unite

**In the latest event in the series of Visteon protests, the workers at the Swansea plant held a picket last Tuesday and Wednesday following the attempted sacking of union convenor Rob Williams.**



The sudden mass redundancies, among several other things, caused workers at Visteon plants around the UK to protest and occupy several factories. Rob Williams, at the Swansea plant, which was not long ago bought from Visteon by Linemar, was sacked by company officials on Tuesday afternoon for his involvement in the workers' struggle and for protecting the workers' terms of employment, although the official reason given for the sacking was 'an irretrievable loss of confidence' in Williams.

Williams then locked himself in a room with several union members and the police were called, although no arrests were made.

Many of the workers immediately held a picket outside the plant to demand William's re-employment, each one risking their job in the process, and they were soon joined by Cardiff, Caerphilly and Swansea members of the Socialist Party Wales, and the protest lasted well into the night as company bosses negotiated with Williams.

Sometime during this, a Ford truck was clearly witnessed entering the plant and leaving a while later, and this was photographed by several comrades.

Williams emerged that night to update everyone present. At that point, the company were still insistent of getting rid of him, this time by trying to buy him off with a 'six-figure sum' which Williams declined, so the negotiation was postponed until Wednesday, and the picket was again held, and this time the Socialist Workers' Party were present. Several workers from the Belfast plant were already on their way on Tuesday afternoon, and they arrived to stand by and support the Swansea workers in a major show of solidarity. We used this opportunity to campaign for the Belfast workers as well.



Although this picket went largely unreported in the press, only getting a small mention in a local paper, the protest was successful, the company gave in and Rob Williams has been re-employed pending a further meeting next week, although he's unlikely to be sacked then as the company officials know the workers are prepared to strike. Perhaps Visteon will ask itself whether it really can win against the protestors. We'd also like to mention that we continue to support the men and women protesting at Belfast, and wish them victory.

