

# LAND LOCKED



**I'd like to inform you about a local story in Pontywaun, Crosskeys, concerning the canal.**

The fear comes from an application to block up underneath the road rail bridge in Pontywaun applied for May 06 granted November 07 this bridge is where Twyncarn Road goes over the canal past the entrance to Halls Road over the railway onto High Street Crosskeys.

The concerns come, as this is the only access to the canal section at Pontywaun for maintenance, contractors, in the past have used this under pass to repair the canal.

This section is surrounded by 60-foot steep embankments to the west and the north. To the east, lies the canal and houses on Twyncarn road and the bridge to the south.

When the council were asked how they intend to keep up repairs to this section of the canal it was suggested that a temporary bridge could be built across the Canal that would be at the expense of the taxpayers.

Blocking up this access point will also ruin any future plans for the area such as a turning point for boats picnic area and car parking and Skate Park. This is the only piece of ground left in Pontywaun so why **land lock it** just so that a national company can save money and we lose the future of the canal? The canal will fall into disrepair then closure will come. you only have to look at the top end to see what will; happen. This stretch of canal between Cwmcarn and the Darren Bridge in Risca for 50 years has always been known as the longest navigatable stretch of the Crumlin arm of the Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal. And in the later years a trip boat has travelled along it.

The top end of the canal in Cwmcarn has not had water in it for a good number of years at first we were told that it was too dangers to put water in the top of the canal so they blocked the section opposite the entrance of the Scenic Forest drive. For a year they hung a pipe along the sidewall but that proved unsuccessful so the water was put back in for two years. Then the council moved the feeder pipe past the aqueduct to feed the canal and once again drained out the aqueduct and for years it has been left empty the council say there is no money to repair the aqueduct but parts have been repaired but not the water way **Why NOT?**

This canal has the potential to be a major tourist attraction and if the bridge is to be blocked up I fear we will loose an important part of our heritage. It is all well and good that the council say that they want to keep the canal open and boats to travel along it but how do they intend to get machinery to the towpath to repair the canal the north side of the bridge. How much more is it going to cost the ratepayer, if every time a repair is needed a temporary bridge or a bung big enough to carry earth-moving equipment across the canal is needed, that must be paid for to be put in place and then be removed to a class site dump. All this so that a multi national company can save money at the ratepayers expense.

Thank you for taking the time to read these words **Chris Cook** PONTYWAUN