

**Jane Davidson AC/AM**

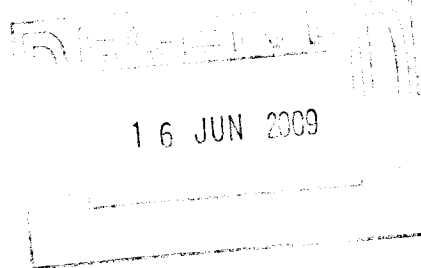
Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai  
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-200  
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/00709/09

Val Lloyd AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA



15 June 2009

*De Val,*

Thank you for your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009 about the petition calling for the creation of a Glamorganshire Canal historic trail from Merthyr Tydfil to Cardiff Bay.

I think this is an interesting suggestion. However, there will I imagine be some problems in terms of formally designating a trail as a public right of way, if this is the intention. This is because I believe that much of the route of the former canal between Aberfan and Cardiff is now covered by development. I understand though that part of old canal route forms part of the Taff Trail so progress there may be more straightforward.

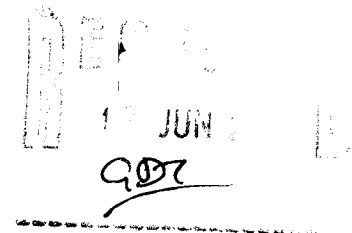
Longer term maintenance of any route and how that would be secured and funded would be another issue that would need to be considered as part of any designation proposals.

*Yours,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jane Davidson".

**Jane Davidson AM**

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai  
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing



## Petitioner's response #1

Gareth,

Thank you for this update, I would comment on the letter from the Minister as follows:-

1. At present there is absolutely nothing to mark the importance of the Canal to the development of the area and this is totally wrong in my opinion.
2. Where viable I support the idea of using the existing Taff trail but with added markers to identify the Canal route providing information local to the area and capturing significant points along the way i.e. MelinGriffiths Pump etc..
3. Where the original route is now a private development, I believe it would still be worthwhile applying permission to erect a small information marker to identify the route and again provide some further information. Where land is identified for Private development in the future, there could be conditions of development that included the placing of Heritage markers to make the Canal route etc....
4. I think areas like Pontypridd will benefit from investment in the Heritage Trail as now the Canal area in the town is an eyesore and needs some form of investment to benefit the area and form an important part of the Heritage trail.

I reiterate, without the Canal where would Cardiff be now ? and how would South Wales have developed of the many years ???

Thanks  
John Williams

Thursday, 6 May 2010

Ms Christine Chapman

Chair, Petitions Committee

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1NA

Subject: Petition The Glamorganshire Canal

Dear Ms. Chapman,

Further to your letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> April I would like to apologise to the Committee for the lack of communications of the last months.

The reason I instigated the petition was because I feel passionate about the important role the canal played in the development of the region and Cardiff in particular. However, my experiences suggested that although there was "some interest" there was a tendency for people to create reasons why it "could never happen".

Depending on your interpretation the concept of a Heritage Trail can mean various things :-

1. It is a physical pathway between two points
2. It has references to historic and important events, methods of construction etc.
3. Where appropriate original parts of the canal, which have been refurbished and properly maintained, are still in existence.
4. Based on the "Blue Plaque" marker concept parts of the canal can be identified to ensure the complete route is identified (particularly useful where there are private developments on the original canal route.)
5. It would be also be identified in maps and tourist information with references to the way people lived at the time and how important the canal was to their very survival. We need to create literature that helps create public awareness in the Canal and even enables the subject to be covered in the early learning years of the next generation.

Is the Heritage Trail achievable? Yes.

In parts the trail would share the same physical space as the Taff Trail, which has totally different priorities and goals, but it does exist. In other parts it would be impossible to create the Trail for example the A470 now occupies

part of the original route. And as pointed out in the letter from Jan Davidson AM some of the route is now private development.

However in order to preserve a very significant part of our regional history I believe it is worth investing time to come up with solution to the Heritage Trail that uses a combination of the 5 solutions as identified above. The clock is ticking on this as even now there are a few of the generation still alive that remember parts of the canal and their knowledge and experiences must be captured.

Although I always realised there would be not quick fix to this challenge I have now come to the conclusion that I have to adopt a different approach so over the months I have been trying to make contact with volunteer groups and organizations that may have an interest in working together as part of a larger "virtual group" to achieve the final objective, some of this activity includes:-

- In contact with Friends of Haley Park a group that manages a section of the canal that still exists in North Cardiff.
- On the Committee of the Friends of Melingriffiths Water Pump which is now going through a renovation project.
- In contact with people in the Pontypridd area that are very interested in raising funds to renovate the section of the canal in Pontypridd.
- In contact with the new Cardiff Story Museum in an attempt to get support for some joint work on the Canal specifically in the Cardiff area.
- In contact with the curator of the new Maritime Museum in Swansea who has expertise in this subject and is responsible for some of the smaller parts of the canal that were saved and are now in secure storage.
- Hopefully will engage the services of Stephen Rowson co-author of two fantastic books on the canal and it's history.

Some of the challenges that I need to address :-

- Create an official voluntary organization with an approved committee that will try and identify funding for small projects relating to the Canal Route. There are rumours that a Glamorganshire Canal Society did exist but I cannot determine if it still exists and/or if any members are still alive.
- Get support from Cardiff CC in order that we can start work on identifying the precise route of the canal within the Cardiff City/CC boundary, the results of this work could be used to furnish the Cardiff Story with a Glamorganshire Canal work within the city, but they do not have any funds for this either.
- What can be done in Pontypridd in terms of renovating the Canal and how can it be funded?

- Identify other small project throughout the canal route that if completed could help in the overall objective of creating the end to end Heritage trail
- Identify possible funding sources for example, ABP, without the success of the Canal there would not be a thriving port and ABP in Cardiff may not have existed. Visit Wales are also on the radar because of the tourism angle. Cardiff CC as a significant part of the success of the Canal help build Cardiff into the capital city.
- Part of the Canal boat weighing system is still in existence in a museum in England, I think it should be brought back to Wales and installed in a suitable location, possibly the Maritime Museum in Swansea.

What can the Petitions Committee do to help?

- I need whatever political support you can offer, for instance can Visit Wales be leveraged to take an interest?
- If there was a way in which you can influence funding however small for example to complete the Canal Walk in the city of Cardiff we will need funds to get photo copies of the old maps etc.
- I am struggling to make contact with anyone interested in the Canal north of Pontypridd. Do the Committee have contacts that can assist in this.
- Identify relevant subject matter experts that could help in the overall objective and would work with the group on a volunteer basis
- Of course if you believe you can help in other ways I would be very interested.

### Summary

Is the objective achievable – Yes, through a new volunteer group work with existing organizations that have an associated interest in the Canal and leverage from their success. Identify funding in order to execute on smaller projects initially that will serve to contribute to the overall objective for the trail.

Once again apologise for the lack of updates and thank you for taking the time to review this communication.

Regards.



## Supporting information provided by the petitioner

Ryan,

Further to my last communications to you I would like to offer you a further update:-

In my letter to the chair dated 6th May I mentioned that it maybe possible to recognise the Glamorganshire Canal via a "Blue Plaque" marker concept, I now understand that Rhondda Cynon Taff (RTF) Have started such a system for recognising historical sites within their boundary, so there is already a positive precedence for this type of system being deployed the length of the canal route. I believe they had funding for this via the Heritage Lottery fund.

The Pontypridd section of the canal that still exists, is very interesting as I have now determined that Sainsbury's have applied for planning on a site next to what remains of the canal. If the planning application is going to be successful then why can't this be linked to a fund being set up by Sainsbury's to help pay for the restoration of this section of the canal, including Sainsbury's allocating a very small section of the land back to the canal restoration. If the assembly can assist in applying whatever pressure for this to happen it would be a very positive move, which would also help to generate some additional jobs in the areas.

Thanks for taking the time to review this information

Regards and Thank You

John Williams

**Jane Davidson AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai  
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-200  
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/01223/10

Christine Chapman AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

15 June 2010

*Dear Chris,*

Thank you for your letter dated 28 May regarding petition P-03-200 on the Glamorganshire Canal.

Given that the Taff Trail forms a shared use walking and cycle route between Merthyr Tydfil and Cardiff Bay, and the costs and practical problems associated with creating a new route based on the course of the Glamorganshire Canal, it is unlikely that an entirely new trail will be pursued. For example, there is no longer a continuous section of the Canal through Rhondda Cynon Taf, largely due to the construction of the A470 trunk road. However, there may be extant sections of the canal route that could in principle be developed in order to add value to the local walking and cycling network, including the Taff Trail.

I can confirm that local authorities are considering options for walking and cycling routes across the region including opportunities along the course of the Canal. Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC is considering proposals for the remaining section of canal at Pontypridd including a walking and cycling link along the existing footbridge to Pentrebach Road to the old canal path at the rear of Ynysangharad Road. The Council is exploring potential avenues of funding to progress these proposals, and is currently liaising with developers on the provision of a community link in conjunction with the development of the Brown Lennox site.

In addition, Cardiff City Council has agreed to consider the course of the Glamorganshire Canal in their forthcoming review of opportunities for walking and cycling routes across the City as part of the Cardiff Sustainable Travel Centre initiative.

*Yours,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

**Jane Davidson AM**

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai  
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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**Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth  
Minister for Heritage



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-200  
Ein cyf/Our ref AFJ/00805/10

Christine Chapman AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

29 June 2010

*Dear Christine,*

I am writing in response to your letter to Visit Wales dated 28 May asking for comments upon the Petition P-03-200 submitted by Mr John Williams about the creation of a Heritage Trail along the route of the Glamorganshire Canal.

I understand my colleague Jane Davidson has responded to you on this issue, and I would have to say that, on the basis of her comments, it would be far too soon to be able to offer any input from Visit Wales. Certainly, if the plans referred to in her letter do come to fruition, then there would be scope to incorporate them into current marketing of walking routes as part of regional promotional activity, or as part of the forthcoming 'Peoples' Collection' website which will offer historical trail routes for download, and is due to launch later this year.

Given the local authority involvement, it is possible that projects may be eligible for support through the Valleys Regional Park project – but this would be a matter for the local authorities concerned.

Finally, on a point of procedure and process, I am concerned that the Committee/Secretariat did not refer this query directly to me. Visit Wales is not an external body – it is part of the Welsh Assembly Government, working within my portfolio area – and therefore the query should have been put to my office. I trust this was an oversight and any future portfolio related issues from the Committee will come to my office.

*Yours sincerely,  
Alun Ffred*

**Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth/Minister for Heritage

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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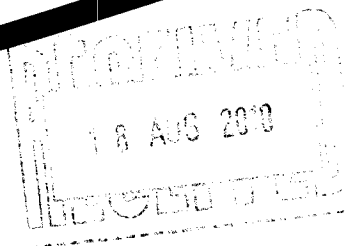
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Thank you for this update, I have read the two letters and I would like to make the following comments with a hope that my input will be considered in the next meeting:-

1. In regard to the response from the Minister of Heritage, I must admit to being disappointed in the response as it offered no real positive support for the petition and after all the Canal forms a critical part of our Heritage ! There are NO references to the Canal's existence in any tourist book or map, why is this? OK we don't have the trail in place but that shouldn't stop us recognising it and its significance to the region.
2. With regard to the response from Jane Davidson, yes I agree that part of the actual trail will be shared with the Taff trail, however the significance of my petition is to use the trail to capture the history of the Canal its construction and how people lived and worked when the canal was a pulsing artery between Merthyr and Cardiff and responsible for the exporting of our coal etc all over the world. Also very interesting in this response is the comment in regard to the Cardiff City walk following the route of the Canal, I have actually been asked by the curator of the Cardiff Story to help create the route of the walk as they are struggling to get this done ..... Hopefully via this petition I and the rest of the volunteers are asking for a little financial support to pay for copying the old maps etc so we can create an accurate walk.

Thank you for taking the time to review these comments.



Christine Chapman AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

**Environmental Services**  
Cyfadran y Gwasanaethau Amgylchedd  
The Pavilions, Cambrian Park  
Clydach Vale, Tonypanyd CF40 2XX  
Y Pafiliynau, Parc y Cambrian  
Cwm Clydach, Tonypanyd CF40 2XX

Tel/Ffôn: 01443 424147, Fax/Ffacs: 01443 424027

| My Ref/Fy Nghyf: | Your Ref/EichCyf: | Date/Dyddiad:  | Please ask for/Gofynnwch am: |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 10641794         |                   | 10 August 2010 | Chris Jones<br>01443 494726  |

### **PETITION: P-03-200 THE GLAMORGANSHIRE CANAL**

Dear Ms Chapman

Thank you for your letter dated 26 July regarding potential works to the former Glamorganshire Canal, which has been passed to me for response.

In principle, the Council is supportive of a community link along the canal, however, the only section where the Council currently has proposals is the section at Pontypridd.

The section at Pontypridd is one of the aspirational elements of the Treforest Connect 2 scheme. This section will provide a community link along the existing footbridge to Pentrebach Road to the old canal path to the rear of Ynysangharad Road. As mentioned in previous correspondence, there is no funding for these aspirational elements at present. Consequently, no feasibility or design work has been undertaken, and detailed scheme proposals have not been developed yet.

Although funding for these aspirational links has not been secured, the Council is exploring potential avenues of funding to progress them e.g. Sewta Regional Transport Plan funding. Sewta has a programme of walking and cycling schemes it is currently in the process of implementing. A scheme to implement a community link along the canal may be included in a future programme, subject to funding availability.

Cont...

The Council is currently considering a planning application (by Sainsbury's) for the development of a large food store that runs close to the short length of canal that remains. As part of the application process, negotiations are taking place with a view to securing improvements in this area through a Section 106 agreement. As I am sure that you are aware, there is very clear guidance about such Section 106 agreements and I would point out that any sums that may be received (assuming that the application is successful) are unlikely to be able to be spent on canal restoration *per se* as there is no direct planning link between the provision of a food store and the restoration of a canal that lies outside of the application site. However, Improvements from the food store development would be likely to include those which would enable better accessibility to the site and may involve improvements along the canal to provide better accessibility by pedestrians and cyclists.

Negotiations are also taking place about a small section of canal which was bought by Brown Lenox, but was filled in for operational purposes and therefore no longer exists. In both the current, and the previous planning permission for a "bulky goods" retail development, the Council secured an agreement with the applicant to set any buildings etc away from the line of the former canal such that it would not prevent any scheme that may come forward for the reinstatement of the canal in the future. The proposed layout at Sainsbury's allows for this and negotiations are ongoing around whether, as part of the construction process, it would be possible for their contractors to excavate this relatively small area.

As part of the planning application process, I can also advise that Chris Jones (the Development Control Manager and case officer for this application) has met recently with Bill Hockey who is Chairman of the Pontypridd Canal Conservation Group to discuss their aspirations for the canal as well to explain the role of the planning system when negotiating Section 106 agreements

I hope that this information is of use to you but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

George Jones  
Group Director, Environmental Services

AM:MS

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
SWYDDFA WEITHREDIAETH**



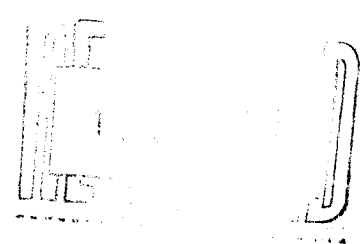
**County Hall**  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW  
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

**Neuadd y Sir**  
Caerdydd  
CF10 4UW  
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

My Ref / Fy Cyf: EM16067

Date / Dyddiad: 23rd August 2010

Christine Chapman AM  
The National Assembly For Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA



Dear / Annwyl Christine

**Petition for The Glamorganshire Canal (P-03-200)**

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition for the Glamorganshire Canal (P-03-200).

It has been explicitly requested that the creation of the Glamorganshire Canal historical trail will be considered as part of the development of the Strategic Cycle Network plan for Cardiff. The development of the network will be based on extensive consultation with local communities. In addition to identifying strategic cycle routes, this plan will incorporate a 5 year prioritised programme of works. The prioritisation criteria have not as yet been developed but are likely to include the opportunities and benefits of the scheme, the barriers, the costs of the scheme, the potential to increase cycling and the potential to improve cycle safety.

This network plan will be an ambitious scheme to reduce congestion, pollution and provide accessible alternatives to using the car and will be fundamental to ensuring that the proposed investment in cycling facilities and initiatives over the coming years is spent wisely. Thus the development of the Glamorganshire Canal will be dependant on the merits of the scheme within the strategic cycle network, and therefore its development within the current budget can not be guaranteed. However I can assure you that as a result of the petition it has been put forward as a route to be considered as part of the network.

I hope that you will be willing to take part in the consultation for the development of the plan. I have added your name to those wishing to be involved. If for any reason you would like your name removed please let me know.

Otherwise we will be in touch again soon with the first of our community engagement initiatives.

Yours sincerely,  
Yn gywir,

**COUNCILLOR / CYNGHORYDD DELME BOWEN  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION  
AELOD GWEITHREDOL TRAFFIG A THRAFNIDIAETH**

**PLEASE REPLY TO:** Executive Office / Swyddfa'r Weithrediaeth  
Room / Ystafell 283, County Hall / Neuadd Y Sir,  
Cardiff / Caerdydd, CF10 4UW  
Tel / Ffon (029) 2087 2598 Fax / Facs (029) 20872691



13



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

TREFTADAETH GADARN | DYFODOL SICR

**Environmental Services**  
Cyfadran y Gwasanaethau Amgylchedd  
The Pavilions, Cambrian Park  
Clydach Vale, Tonypandy CF40 2XX  
Y Pafiliynau, Parc y Cambrian  
Cwm Clydach, Tonypandy CF40 2XX

Response from Rhondda Cynon Taf

Christine Chapman AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardif  
CF99 1NA

Tel/Ffôn: 01443 424147, Fax/Ffacs: 01443 424027

My Ref/Fy Nghyf:  
DGJ/CB

Your Ref/EichCyf:  
P-03-200

Date/Dyddiad:  
25 October 2010

Dear Ms Chapman

**Re: P-03-200 The Glamorganshire Canal**

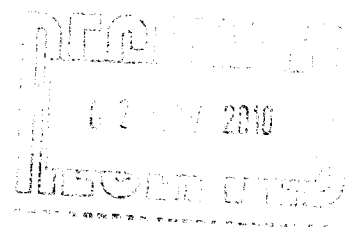
I refer to your letter dated 15 October 2010, requesting further information on our discussion with SEWTA.

The SEWTA Walking and Cycling group have agreed to promote The Glamorganshire Canal as a walking and cycling scheme. The bid then progresses through the various bodies within SEWTA for ultimate endorsed by the SEWTA Board, to be included as part of the bid for 2011/12 funding to the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). We will know what scale of bid WAG is inviting towards the end of the year, probably in December and would anticipate that the bid will be submitted during January. The scale of the bid allowed will determine whether the scheme is prioritised for inclusion or not. I would expect WAG to confirm actual funding for 2011/12 during March 2011.

If we are successful, I see no problem in including the petitioners in any consultation, from which their thoughts and ideas can be considered.

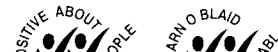
Yours sincerely

**George Jones**  
Group Director Environmental Services



**George Jones**

Group Director, Environmental Services | Cyfarwyddwr, Cyfadran y Gwasanaethau Amgylchedd



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
SWYDDFA WEITHREDIAETH**



**County Hall**  
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My Ref / Fy Cyf: EM16067  
Date / Dyddiad: 9th November 2010

Christine Chapman AM  
The National Assembly For Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear / Annwyl Christine

**Petition For The Glamorganshire Canal Ref: (P-03-200)**

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition for the Glamorganshire Canal (P-03-200).

It has been explicitly requested that the creation of the Glamorganshire Canal historical trail will be considered as part of the development of the Strategic Cycle Network plan for Cardiff. The development of the network will be based on extensive consultation with local communities. In addition to identifying strategic cycle routes, this plan will incorporate a 5 year prioritised programme of works. The prioritisation criteria have not as yet been developed but are likely to include the opportunities and benefits of the scheme, the barriers, the costs of the scheme, the potential to increase cycling and the potential to improve cycle safety. This network plan will be an ambitious scheme to reduce congestion, pollution and provide accessible alternatives to using the car and will be fundamental to ensuring that the proposed investment in cycling facilities and initiatives over the coming years is spent wisely. Thus the development of the Glamorganshire Canal will be dependant on the merits of the scheme within the strategic cycle network, and therefore its development within the current budget can not be guaranteed. However I can assure you that as a result of the petition it has been put forward as a route to be considered as part of the network.

I would welcome the involvement of Mr John Williams, the petitioner in the consultation process for the development of the plan. Mr Williams, name has been added to those wishing to be involved, however if for any reason he would like his name removed, then please let me know.

Otherwise officers will be in touch soon with the first of our community engagement initiatives.

Yours sincerely,  
Yn gywir,

**COUNCILLOR / CYNGHORYDD DELME BOWEN  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION  
AELOD GWEITHREDOL TRAFFIG A THRAFNIDIAETH**

**PLEASE REPLY TO:** Executive Office / Swyddfa'r Weithrediaeth  
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Cardiff / Caerdydd, CF10 4UW  
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24 Windsor Esplanade  
Cardiff  
CF10 5BG

Wednesday, 15 December 2010

Christine Chapman AM  
Chair Petitions Committee,  
National Assembly for Wales,  
Cardiff,

Subject P-03-200 The Glamorganshire Canal

Dear Christine,

I would like to thank you for your recent communications on the subject it is good positive news.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all it's work in regard to my petition, all your efforts are extremely valuable and I hope we will make further progress in the future.

I continue to work to gain support for the scheme and am part of other voluntary organizations involved in specific projects connected with the canal for example the Mellingriffith Water Pump in Whitchurch and the project in Pontypridd to restore part of the canal.

Once again thank you and the team for all their efforts and have a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Thank You



John Williams