

**ROBIN EVANS CUSTOMER MEETING
The Bear Hotel, Abergavenny, 25 July 2008****POINTS RAISED BY CUSTOMERS AT THE MEETING - 30 Customers**

Sue Lewis Business Development Manager and Andy Goss Senior Project Engineer gave a presentation on progress on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

- **Maintenance** -
 - Local Issue* - Water leaking at Bridge 115
 - Local Issue* - Condition of towpath between 114 & 113 very low with corrosion
 - Local Maintenance can we make this more effective?
 - Vegetation – site management discussed
- **Funding** - Is funding in place for restoration work?
- What is the future of canals nationwide?
- Can boaters pressurise MP's etc., for funding?
- Annual Report Press Release – said: £60M being spent on restoration of canals, where is it being allocated?
- Regarding BW spending £7.5M this year and £7.5 M over the next few years how does BW see the future of canals. Lack of government support and an increasingly older canal system.
- Charity status for BW?
- **Communication** - Improve regular communication with BW to keep everyone informed, not just rumours.
- Many Abergavenny councillors are not aware of the breach
- Who maintains the canal when it doesn't come under BW, for example at Torfaen
- People are "writing off" the canal because it is not in water. Need to promote cycling, walking and angling in local newspapers to maintain interest.
- **Cyclists** - Why are cyclists not charged – boaters could police this
- **Canoeists** - licences for canoeists – how do we track licence holders, should be displayed on boats? More canoes on the canal considered to be in the way by boaters
- **Volunteers** – can they do more?
- World Challenge – used the canal extensively for canoeing, caused damage to towpath
- **Heritage Centre at Goytre** is often closed as it is not always manned, no one to issue fishing licences moorings activities' information etc. Need signage to inform visitors what is on the site
- **Visitor moorings** – any new ones?
- Possibility of another Breach on the Monmouthshire & Brecon canal in the future, with a repeat of the inconvenience to boaters and visitors – boaters are always vulnerable because they are not essential.