

P-06-1525 Preserve the unique character of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal for the future generations of Wales

This petition was submitted by Jan Butler, having collected 13,847 signatures online and 169 signatures on paper, making for a total of 14,016 signatures.

Text of petition:

The Mon and Brec is one of the most picturesque and tranquil waterways in the UK winding through Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and through many rural and later urban communities as it makes its way from Brecon, through Talybont on Usk onwards through Goytre Wharf towards Newport. It provides the lifeblood to residents and communities in its path and attracts approximately 3 million visitors a year who make significant contribution to the local economy enabling these communities to thrive.

Additional information:

Since its inception by act of parliament in 1792 the canal has depended on water abstracted from the River Usk and its tributaries. The Usk at Brecon provides 80% of the water required. The water is not 'consumed' as it is returned to the river once it has travelled along the route. Until recently water abstraction did not require licences. For 200 years it has been free of charge. The canal, managed by the Canal and River Trust Wales (a charity), is now required by National Resources Wales to obtain a licence and limit water abstractions. Without a daily supply of water through its locks the canal will quickly become inoperable and closure will be inevitable. The consequences to the livelihood of our communities, natural environment and local economy are unthinkable. An unmanaged canal can lead to catastrophic failure and destruction of properties in its path. Dwr Cymru and NRW have indicated they will supply support water but at prohibitive cost which The Charity cannot afford.

Senedd Constituency and Region:

- Monmouth
- South Wales East