

# Council should concentrate on issues that really matter

COUNCIL leader Roderick Bluh, in apparent dream mode, visualises a canal costing between £30m and £70m and taking God only knows how many years to construct passing through the centre of Swindon and in all probability becoming a repository for Tesco supermarket trolleys (SA July 21).

Canals also need a lot of water, which because of several factors, not least the uncontrolled increase in population is a rapidly diminishing resource.

Without an adequate water supply the canal will become a health hazard, which is what happened with the previous Swindon Canal.

With respect, there are far more important and attainable goals to which Swindon Borough Council should be giving their attention.

Here are a few: Provision of toilet facilities at the Town Gardens for citizens attending organised events. None available Sunday, July 16 when the Mid West Big Band were

performing.

Restoration of swimming and boating facilities at Coate Water for young people which gave such pleasure to those of my generation, thoughtfully provided by Swindon councillors of long ago.

Action in respect of the Locarno and Mechanics' Institute, the latter under discussion for the last 20 years.

Need I say any more?

**FRANK AVENELL**  
Beckhampton Street  
Swindon

## There are good answers to all objections to new canal

I CANNOT understand why Barry Woodham is so anti-social (letters, July 26) after stating he owned a narrow boat for more than 10 years!

He talks of a canal on stilts through the town, reverse that idea and put the roads above the waterway, Barry.

He speaks of vandals and yobbos attacking moored boats. Cars parked on streets suffer from the same.

Narrow boats smell strongly of diesel fumes? Cars, lorries and

buses don't, I suppose?

The rats? Well they have already been seen in the town centre, nothing new about that.

When Barry's father went to school no doubt the canal was already in a derelict state by then and being used as a rubbish dump, hence the smell.

Filling miles of canal with water an impossible task? That's what Coate Water was built for!

**FRANK GLEED**  
West View  
Swindon

1<sup>ST</sup> AUG 2006 +