

WELCOME TO MERTHYR TYDFIL



"The 'Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme', in its own right, is the largest of the original three phases and would restore 367ha of derelict land. The reclamation works will include the removal of known shafts and adits all previously associated with iron ore and coal workings as well as the removal of fly tipping and many burnt out and stolen cars from the site. This Scheme will create a better and safer environment for the local community for the benefit of future generations."

<http://www.millerargent.co.uk/about-the-site/>

"This opencast mine is a massive scheme that will blight our lives for at least the next 17 years. Merthyr Tydfil is densely populated (approx. 60-70,000, or more recently, 50-55,000 residents) all living extremely close to the coal seams. We are suffering desperately with the noise from the operation (60dbA+ at times and regularly at 55dbA) and - to varying degrees from the dirt and dust output also.

Merthyr Tydfil is surrounded by coal deposits, and has always been an irresistible attraction to speculators who want to make vast profits for minimum outlay. Miller-Argent Mining are just the latest protagonists. The biggest problem is that this time they have the backing of Westminster, the Welsh Assembly Government, and Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council. This has come about because of the Labour government's lack of a vision in their energy policy, and Wales' reliance on the Aberthaw coal fired power station.

They want as much coal as they can get as cheaply as they can source it - & damn the impact on the people of Merthyr!

We have people living up to only 37 Metres (120ft) from this huge mining operation, with absolutely no protection from noise or fallout. The Welsh Assembly Government will not agree to a buffer zone of any sort, and no compensation or re-location has been offered. Miller-Argent is a self regulating company; the council have abrogated responsibility for the mines impact - the noise monitoring and dust monitoring is carried out by the company itself! All data is owned by the company and the public has no access to it. Sanitised reports are produced and supplied to the council once a year.

The operation was initially planned to last 17 years, but there are plans to take this to 25 and 40 years if necessary. The coal from Ffos-y-Fran is supplying around 40% of the needs of the 'dirty dinosaur' that is Aberthaw Coal Fired Power Station. The working life of this power station has recently been extended to 2025, closely matching the proposed lifespan of Ffos-y-Fran. Aberthaw is the biggest polluter in Wales and in the top 5 largest polluters in Britain - pumping out more than 7.4 million tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per year. 17 years of this will mean approximately 127,500,000 tonnes of CO2 into our atmosphere, already at risk of crossing the tipping point to catastrophic runaway Climate Change."

WWW.STOPFFOSYFRAN.CO.UK



SOUL NOT COAL!

MERTHYR FILM SETS

A Poem by Merthyr poet Mike Jenkins:

What about Ffos-y-fran
as a new planet for 'Doctor Who',
one called Devastation
with mutant creatures
trying to take over the Earth
with their poisonous dust?

What about all the empty shops
like Woolies being scenes
of an Apocalypse, after
the poison has spread
and many people are dead?

What about our politicians
suddenly appearing from
Penarth and Afghanistan
like aliens in the town
baffled at the emptiness?

What about the heroin addicts
with starved and young-old faces,
with craters in their eyes
full of that dust
and unable to cry?

What about those with metal sticks
as extra limbs prodding the pavements
and others hauling their own flesh
like bags of frozen food stitched
beneath elastic waists ; all searching
for a place not contaminated?

What about the cameras above the streets
recording ,unedited, as the rats and pigeons
scavenge on all the droppings
of the last people to leave
before the roller-blinds come down
and everything's sucked into a black hole above town?

"I cannot escape Ffos-y-fran. Over a year ago, I wrote a poem about the writer George Monbiot and other campaigners who dressed as polar bears and chained themselves to the machinery there. The land at the back of my house, know as the Waun, is under constant threat of opencasting. Both our AM Huw Lewis and MP Dai Havard have consistently failed to oppose its scourge."

