

FISH HILL SQUARE CONSULATION

The information below has been gathered from 153 responses to the surveys and consultation information. 52 of these responses were gathered at the consultation event held on the 28th of August 2010 as part of the market fun day. The remaining 101 reposes were received during the 4 week consultation period finishing on the 23rd of September 2010. The majority of responses were submitted via the exhibition in the library, and a smaller number were submitted by post and email after viewing the boards on line.

No comments were posted on either the twitter site or facebook site although a good number of hits were recorded, indicating that people were visiting the sites.

Overall 108 of the responses received were in favour of the scheme, and 45 were totally against the scheme, viewing it as a waste of money, and would prefer to see the money spent on fixing up existing areas and streets within Royston. Nearly 2/3 of the negative responses were supplied by residents aged 65+, with the remaining 1/3 supplied by those between 50-65.

The comments and personal views received during the consultation were varied and quite often contradictory, but there were a number of comments that reoccurred a number of times. These comments are noted in the table below and include a written response by the designers.

Comment	Response
Make the whole area pedestrainised, remove the proposed parking and remove the road in front of the butchers.	The road in front of the butchers is necessary as it allows access to drive ways accessed from the top of Church Lane. The access route from Fish Hill Square to John Street is also necessary as Fish Hill Square provides the only vehicular access to the High Street. A reduced number of parking bays have been retained in the new scheme as a large number of residents feel that parking within this area is essential. The design allows for the parking bays to be removed in the future and replaced with an enlarged pedestrian area.
No sculpture, it's a waste of money and spend the money on more useful things.	The response to the sculpture was mixed with an even number of people for and against it. We feel that a vertical element, whether it is a sign, light or sculpture will add an identity, and create a visual beacon as you enter the space.
Do not need pavement cafes	The proposed design does not suggest that the surrounding shops are converted to cafes, but provides an open space that could be used for outdoor seating by the existing cafes. Licenses will have to be obtained from the council for seating to be located within the public open space.
Would like a water feature in the space	Due to the implementation cost, ongoing maintenance and seasonal use it was determined that a water feature is not appropriate for this space.
The scheme is a waste of money, spend the funding on improving existing areas and streets within Royston.	The enhancement scheme is being funded from Growth Area Funding which is to be spent on capital projects.
Granite sett paving is uneven and dangerous for elderly and less stable people. New paving needs	We agree. Paving needs to have an even and smooth surface, and not create a trip hazard. We will be specifying a picked top or flame finished cobble stone, that has a flat surface and adequate slip resistance.

to create a smooth, even surface.	
Level of parking	The 8 number of parking spaces have been proposed as they are the maximum number that can be accommodated within the square while still creating a good sized public open space. The additional 6 spaces that will be removed from the square will be relocated up Market Hill in locations that will be checked to ensure service and delivery vehicles can still move freely.
Is a loading bay necessary	Currently a number of service vehicles stop in Fish Hill Square to unload goods for the shops fronting onto the square and the night club. The loading bay has been incorporated into the design to facilitate a stopping place for these vehicles that does not impact on parking and other traffic movements within the space.
Granite seats	Granite seats have been proposed as they are durable, low maintenance and neutral, neither modern or heritage style. They can be cold in the winter, but a timber seating panel can be designed, with a back rest and arm rests.

Statistics of those who responded to the consultation:

1-15	16-19	20-29	30-49	50-65	65+
2	1	3	33	35	61

Resident	A local business	other
116	12	10

RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION QUESTIONS:

Question 1

What would you like to see in the square?

Item	No.	Other comments
Trees	98 people in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small and easy to maintain ensure roots cause no damage (x 4 people) - As many as possible as so few in town - Not too many / One will do / None - the park has plenty. - Evergreen to protect from leaf fall drainage / Probably deciduous / berried trees - Will block out the sun
Public Art	43 people in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Something durable and not easy to vandalise. The area already gets its share of graffiti. - A central structure with a clock - Large and related to Royston - Not too Avant Garde / Not too modern - Small features only (x 2 people) - One piece only - Fountain instead - No. Spend money on more useful things (x9 people) - Often unattractive and questionable because contemporary art can become old fashioned. (x 2 people)
Seating	102 people in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very necessary / Some seating / One will do - Not concrete – wood would be better (x 3 people) - Granite seats or benches - Not granite blocks / look cold and uninviting / not safe for children / uncomfortable (x 2 people) - Get quality / not prone to vandalism / Robust, cast iron or wooden - Back rests. - Style in keeping with old town - Arranged to suit varied use of the square / café seating layout is not prohibitive
Better lighting	64 people in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Particularly in Jepps lane - Older style (x 2 people) - Minimal lighting all focused down - Some on new buildings (not historic ones) to reduce clutter - Not necessary - Perhaps the sculpture lit up but not too much. - Solar powered most important. - Sympathetic to the area, but bright enough to deter potential vandalism.
Retain some parking	67 people in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking bays would be essential (x 3 people) - Increase proposal by 3 parking spaces - More parking spaces in Fish Hill Square (x 3 people) - Make convertible for other uses - No parking! There is ample parking in Royston The value of the whole improvement scheme will be negated by the presence of cars (x 20 people) - I don't want to but there is so little parking already! - No except for trade deliveries - Ban lorries - Parked cars are not compatible with an important focal point with open space. - There could possibly be some underground parking + multi storey parking at the Warren to relieve parking elsewhere. - Arrangements for disabled spaces (x 7 people) - Bike stands (x 4 people)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited to 30min / Minimum stay 20 minutes max / short term parking - First hour free / totally free - Limited to allow visits to local shops. (x 3 people) - The natural movement of traffic will be impeded not improved by this proposal. - Get rid of parking in front of Anatolia
A loading bay	43 people in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unnecessary (x 4 people) - If necessary (x 3 people) - Required by local shops (x 3 people) - I have concerns about this although I recognise the need - Large van size only – not lorries - Some loading bays - lorries must and will unload. - Just one please - Preferably not but timed zone only - Could be where the space for cars are, perhaps with restricted times. - Putting a loading bay in cancels out the removal of the existing parking bays. If not properly policed it will just become an additional parking space. - Business use only. - better located elsewhere - A discreet loading bay to service nearby businesses. - Businesses to rear of square will still need vehicular access for deliveries etc / Essential for business premises on and adjacent to the square.
Open space for events	67 People in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NO don't think required as open air events should be taking place in the park or Market Square (x 4 people) - Could be used for art exhibitions etc - Insufficient space. - Would prefer flower tubs around seating area
Pavement cafes	74 people in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No there are plenty of refreshment providers already (x 12 people) - A nice idea but we don't have the right climate or the right demographics to make it work properly/ make a pub garden (x 3 people) - Café seating with parasols to encourage outdoor eating/drinking and little French portable fences (x 2 people) - Not enough space / Not required - Not practical or safe. Pedestrians and motor traffic still will use the area (x 3 people) - In your scheme either an estate agent or a hair and beauty salon would have to change into a café.
Markets	65 people in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No we have the space already (x 7 people) - Speciality market (x 6 people) - No Sunday when 90% of shops shut - Why have two markets? - Not required. Should enhance what we have (x 2 people) - Especially a fish market given its name - One stall or perhaps 2 (x 2 people) - Could be used for limited market space when the charter fair is in town.

Other comments:

Improved conditions for the youngsters

Raised flower beds / Flowers in pots or baskets

Bins (x 5 people)

Entertainment/buskers etc. live music eg Covent Garden, London (x 2 people)

Waste of money and don't do anything to Fish Hill Square (x 5 people)

Jepps Lane need to be included – it is a disgrace (x 2 people)

Aim for quality – could you improve the existing shops with colour matched awnings, etc.

Information board similar to that on the cross and opposite Palace

Water features (x 5 people)

Question 2

What do you think of the layout?

- Like the layout (x 26 people)
- Largely good. If anything I'd prefer to see a larger pedestrian area – extended toward butchers?
- Is it possible to pedestrianise apart from delivery vehicles? There is plenty of other parking.
- No parking necessary (x 6 people)
- Pedestrian crossing especially between the two proposed open public spaces would be welcome. (x 3 people)
- The larger seating area would be better separate from the buildings to allow access to those establishments, with that seating area towards the centre of the square larger and the only one.
- There's something unnatural about having it on the east side but I can see that the afternoon sun is important. It appears a tortuous route to Church Lane.
- Minimise traffic movement restrict to necessary loading at particular times.
- Problem of large lorries making deliveries to Church Lane premises not addressed.
- I hope the turn at the bottom of Fish Hill will be big enough for the lorries, vans, etc delivering to the town / Proposed layout prevents large delivery lorries from reversing into the yard behind the Church Lane shops and is therefore unacceptable.
- Any outdoor seating will be in danger from traffic.
- Speed bump outside Days Bakery to slow traffic coming around the bend into Fish Hill Square!!
- Reducing parking will make it more difficult to shop in town centre for mothers with children and the elderly.
- Retain all parking
- Parking is needed in this area for unloading lorries during the week and for less able people to access the church, particularly on Sundays.
- The parking spaces outside the night club look OK on paper but will be tight on the ground. (x 2 people)
- Widen the path outside Days bakery (x 2 people)
- Pavement café in front of Anatolia
- Open paved area would look better outside the courthouse.
-
- Far too fancy
- Need to keep the OLD feeling.
- Space too small (x 2 people)
- Space too small to alter and is necessary for car parking. (x 3 people)
- Unnecessary to change it (x 3 people)
- Too expensive, lacks imagination for the area and would take too long to create.
- Looks really unattractive and ultra modern for what is a small market town.
- The seating area should be on the opposite side looking at the bakers and hairdressers as looking at the tower block on the other side isn't very appealing.
- Good to see messy Jepps Lane being brought into the scheme!
- To save money keep church Lane as it is – just jet wash to spruce it up.
- Too many trees, as shown.
- If a sculpture is to be effective it should be in a dominant position and not placed to one side.
- Turn road layout around – in at Market Hill and out at Fish Hill.

What do you think of the suggested materials?

- Materials look good (x 9 people)
- Like coloured granite (x 9 people)
- Like grey granite (x 2 people)
- Like concrete pavers (x 5 people)
- Not concrete (x 2 people)
- Not granite– it gets too damaged by utilities
- Brick and flints
- Resin bound gravel looks the most appropriate for an old town (x 6 people)
- Cobble or similar roadway – no more concrete pavers
- Natural materials like timber and stone (x 2 people)

- Coloured (subtly) materials would be nice
- Local geology is chalk, white stone with water is appropriate. Granite setts probably best choice
- Traditional materials used. Eg cobbled paving or resin bound gravel as in Baldock (x 2 people)
- Something simple

- All materials used should be strong, durable and eye catching (x 2 people)
- Use easy to maintain materials, and easy to remove chewing gum (x 6 people)
- Pavers look good but they don't seem to last – the High Street is breaking up
- Use a warmer colour than the High Street. In winter the High Street is dark and dismal a 'black hole'. Then I only go if I have to.
- Do not use any light colour paving, see all the streets in Royston and LGC, chewing gum and large stains.
- Particular attention at design stage should be given to restriction of pigeon droppings
- Similar materials for surfaces such as those on the High St and John Street.
- Good idea but will the resin deteriorate leaving gravel to be scuffed up and utility companies may not replace it (x 5 people)

- Granite sett paving dangerous for elderly and disabled people (x 6 people)
- Surfaces need to be level (x 2 people)

- Why not have the same material paving for all pedestrian areas, and asphalt for the vehicular ways.
- No kerbs but perhaps a band of straight blocks to delineate vehicular access from pedestrian areas.
- The parking area, road and pedestrian areas should be definitely delineated pedestrian areas – grey granite – roadways asphalt (NO raised cobbles).

- good drainage
- ground lighting
- More greenery less pavement/concrete.
- Ensure good workmanship
- Make sure everything is vandal proof.
- Suggest to residents and shop owners to try and have window boxes where appropriate

Question 3

What do you think the sculpture should be / represent?

	No.	Comments
For	51	
Against	43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prefer a really lovely tree(s) to a sculpture x 6 - Modern art would not be appropriate as it's an historic town - Not worth the cost / waste of money (x 12 people) - Not necessary (x 11 people) - Not needed! We already have the Roysel Stone which is the most appropriate landmark for Royston. (x 2 people) - Space is not big enough (x 4 people) - Large sculptures become boring very quickly. - Should be fountain instead. - Should be a lighting beacon as suggested. - Sculptures look awful - Information board would be more visitor friendly. - Would be vandalised continually. This area already has a record of damage by vandals being adjacent to a night club and a cut through for late night pub revellers returning home! (x 3 people)

- Should represent Royston. Historic connection with the stone
- Clock tower with some humour
- Represent the auctions
- Represent the town and community (x 3 people)
- Indicative of history – Royston had a herd of white stags and deer (x 3 people)
- Historical (x 3 people)
- Barley
- Use a local artist (x 3 people)
- The Royston crow (x 3 people)
- Iconic piece that would attract visitors
- Represent agricultural past.
- Representation of images from Royston cave (x 2 people)
- Local history – Royston used to be hunting home for King James
- The Queen
- King James (x 2 people)
- A piece of modern art
- Town's history and expectation of prosperous future.
- Sculpture to be part of a water feature, with more emphasis on water feature than sculpture (x 6 people)
- The crossing of two important roads and their history
- Historic figure or a horse (Arctic Prince) or a mounted historic figure.
- Fit into its surroundings. Then I believe a modern look would fit in better (maybe with a historic twist)
- Metal beacon, perhaps with town twinning crests on – La Loupe, Grossalmeode, new Spanish twin town.
- A sculpture would be very nice as would trees but I would be worried someone coming out of the nightclub may try to climb it and fall off which is why there is no lion in Lion's Yard in Cambridge any more.
- Local history/traditional x2
- Globe or ball, metal or stone, with countries etched on to represent the world with the meridian 0 running through Royston in GB.

- I like the new sculptures in Letchworth and would like to see the same or something similar in Royston.
- Definitely not modern like the awful stuff in Letchworth. Historic reference preferred.
- Cinderella
- Not modern possibly to show we are still in Hertfordshire.
- Plaster cast (fibreglass) copy of Royston Cave 1
- Family values
- Not sure but could we link it to the Knights Templar perhaps – maybe a sculpture depicting them. Or an obelisk or water feature in stone or metal – contemporary in design.
- Hairdressing which is a listed building.
- Not too modern as it sits next to several listed buildings. Not too big as it shouldn't make the area too busy.
- Something relevant to Royston (Not North Herts).
- Beautiful tree
- It should be an arch indicating a gateway into the County of Hertfordshire – on the arch would be pictures depicting groups or events of Royston, like the Royston Stone, Knights Templar, The Crow, James 1, School ????, race horse, etc.
- A young boy/girl with a horn spluttering water.
- Either a sculpture or totem pole.
- Tasteful and not so tall, lit by low level lighting.
- The sculpture should be 2 metres or under, so light is not blocked from the windows of Henricks
- Vandal proof – not wooden, not sculpture
- Like beacon – with signage and lighting
- Maybe permanent laser shows at night.
- Could it be multi functional - contain security, or lighting within, power within for future Christmas lights or event promotion or even weather temperature, time information
- Incorporate seating.

Question 4

What do you think the name of the square should be?

- Summer Square x 2
- Court house square x 11
- The priory
- St John Church
- Fish Hill Square or refer to the Old Court House x 38
- Cartwright Square
- Kennedy Court / Square
- King James Square x 4
- Crow square x 2
- Market Square x 3
- The Royston Square
- Church Square x 4
- Corn Exchange Square
- John Square x 2
- St John's Square x 2
- Corn Market
- Brian Racher Square
- Cameron Square – to symbolise the change of government in the year of the proposed enhancements
- Canon Square, Rochester Square, Austin Square
- Corvus Square x3
- Dacre Square x2
- Lady Dacre Square x2– the name of child welfare clinic held for many years in estate agents
- Fish Place
- Fish Square x2
- Hadock Place
- Knights Square/Knights Place
- Piazza Nuova
- Priory Square x2
- Roysia Square x 2
- Saxon Square – not named after a Councillor whose name will have no relevance in years to come.
- Templar Court
- Templar Place
- Templers Square x3
- The Old Courthouse Square/Old Court/Old Court Square
- The Old market Square/Place
- The Piazza
- The Square x2
- The Strand
- The Town Square x3
- Tranquillity Square
- White Hart Square
- Why change? Except to the more pleasant sounding Market Hill Square
- La Loupe square - Next year we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of our twinning with La Loupe (France) and I wondered if the square to be named to reflect this French twinning.
- Theologian Thomas Cartwright, as he is possibly the most illustrious Royston townsman.
- The name for the square should commemorate the work of Brian Racher - On his passing he left instructions for a charitable trust to be set up, known as the Brian Racher Trust. His philanthropy was based on a donation of £2 million. It is still being used to help community work to this day I believe remembering him through the naming of the square will be very popular.

Question 5

Any other comments?

- Don't waste the money (x 20 people)
- I think it's a brilliant idea / Great idea for the community (x 12 people)

PARKING:

- If there is a perceived need for some extra disabled parking near the square then allocate some of the space in market hill (behind the library)
- Better to remove the parking and make the car parks around the town centre free for short stays. You may need to retain a few spaces for disabled parking.
- I think car parking should be out of the square and the suggested spaces be for loading bay only and relocate car parking elsewhere as cars negotiating parking will congest.
- As stated I believe parked cars are incompatible with a focal open space but accept that lost spaces should be sought elsewhere.
- You have very little extra room for parking and cars look ugly in a public space. It is an ugly and inconvenient (for pedestrians) addition to the High Street already – please do not add another one!
- The enhancement scheme would be of great benefit to the town but will only succeed if there is no parking and
- There should be some parking in the square but providing adequate parking is available nearby then priority should be for pedestrians, cyclists and scooters or motorcycles as they all take up much less space than cars.
- If there are spaces in the town centre for parking to be relocated to, why aren't they already being utilised.
- Area in Market Hill proposed for new parking spaces is extensively used by Blue Badge holders on market days. If this becomes general parking disabled will lose areas to the market.
- Limit parking up Market Hill as this will reduce space on the road for pedestrians, especially on market days.
- no flow of traffic through the square.
- I have been fighting for a Royston Taxi Rank for many years and it would appear that the very area that we suggested it to be placed (along the outside of the library and market area) is now the proposed replacement parking spots.

TRAFFIC FLOWS:

- Good idea to reduce car flow through the town centre
- With so much through traffic into the High Street and out of Royston via Market Hill I can't visualise it working. If the square could be a pedestrian precinct – but it is small and the buildings are not very attractive.
- It would be nice to see centre as traffic free as possible so open spaces can be used by young and elderly in peace and safety.
- Should be fully pedestrianised
- Library has a delivery Mon-Fri. parking for delivery van is a MUST along Market Hill.
- this could be the time to reverse the flow of traffic in Fish Hill and Market Hill.

LAYOUT AND ELEMENTS:

- Make it traditional. A modern square would not be in keeping with the area (x 3 people)
- Public area where old and young and disabled can sit together so seating arrangement is a priority.
- Any scheme should focus on the whole shopping experience not just the superficial appearance. The scheme should only go ahead if the surrounding shops can be let.

- The general appearance of the shops should be improved to be in keeping with any new proposal.
- Everything needs to be vandal proof (x 2 people)
- Signpost to important places – train station, park, health, library, etc
- It is a pity it could not be extended up Market Hill.
- My only concern as a listed building owner close to the sculpture is how the sculpture looks from my building and if it blocks natural light from the windows.
- I'd like to see more greenery and less pavement/concrete.

GENERAL RESPONSES:

- Very pleased to think this will be happening to improve the town for residents and visitors. It would be lovely to have a meeting space for markets, performance and recreation in the square, with cafes.
- Not convinced the town needs a new square as it already utilises existing areas very well for markets and events and if the town did need a new square this is hardly in a central location ie on the high street and with bland building facing it
- If you look at Baldock and Letchworth the schemes have been too disruptive and building took too long and reduced businesses.
- Compared with the work at Baldock and Letchworth it's an insult.
- I think the proposal will enhance the Fish Hill area and benefit the residents and businesses in the square.
- Will make the area much more welcoming and appealing.
- Lots of good decisions about Royston Town centre have, been made in the past - but some how it does not draw together well. I think this is one of the projects that is going to change that. Also noticed that there is still road in front of the new butchers ... Why is that not extra pavement?
- Extremely poor – like the mess in Baldock.
- We have a beautiful park 20 seconds away from the square. Encouraging a café culture is all very well, however our existing café owners will suffer who are already rate payers investing in the town without the benefit of the council's assistance in creating a pretty outdoor space for them.
- Are there no other options? I don't think the proposed scheme will represent value for money.

ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS OF WHAT THE MONEY COULD BE USED FOR:

- Spend the money sprucing up the High Street (x 4 people)
- Before spending money on this space all the pavements within Royston need inspecting
- We need a 24hr police station (x 3 people)
- Repair potholes and level pavements instead (x 2 people)
- Put towards decorating or upgrading band stand and the areas of the town.
- Please spend the money on improvements and maintenance of what we already have (x 2 people)
- We require more seats in the High Street as people are getting older.
- Resurfacing Norton Street, etc.
- Activities for the kids in Royston – bowling alley! Cinema! Bigger sports centre!
- I think there should be a plaster cast (fibreglass) copy of Royston Cave 1: 1 at the junction of Angel Pavement and High Street. Please spend money to encourage people to come into the town from outside. This project will not do that at all.
- Redo the Angel Pavement area.
- Alter ground at top of Fish Hill/Market Hill and trees in High Street.
- We should keep the car parking as it is and spend the money to refurbish Church Lane and Angel Pavement instead.