

Royston Citizenship Classes 2012

This year the classes took place in all Royston schools save Greneway, with Meridian joining for the first time.

The children often suffer from mis-perceptions which the councillors seek to redress: those mis-perceptions are often based on a lack of awareness of the existence of particular facilities, or of the costs involved in providing them. This report does not comment on Members' explanation on such issues.

Tannery Drift 09/02/12
10 children, 6m, 4f
All liked living in Royston, and most went to the Leisure Centre
None aware of the 850th anniversary.

They didn't like –
Litter

They wanted –
Computer games shop
York Way park to be bigger
One wanted an open-air pool

Roysia 27/02/12
7 children, 4m, 3f.
All liked Royston, and they particularly liked-
Parks – safe
Corner shops
Peacocks

They didn't like –
Graffiti (and noted several instances, some incorrect and some already removed.)

They wanted –
A bigger skatepark, and preferably nearer
A water feature in Priory Memorial Gardens
The MUGA to be grassed over
A graffiti wall
A sports shop
Toy shop and a petshop
Fast food outlet

They noted that the Stone was filled with rubbish

St.Mary's Catholic 28/02/12
38 children, 21m, 17f
They liked –
Ladds sweet shop
High Street shops & Costa coffee
The Leisure Centre and the swimming club
The Market

They disliked –
Rugby club pitch suffers from dog mess

They wanted -
A slide in the Leisure Centre pool
Expansion of the skatepark

Icknield Walk

15/03/12
40+ children, 8-9yrs old. All enjoyed the Leisure Centre and the range of events available and the town's parks, and Lads.

They liked –
The Heath, with its wide range of sports facilities
Pubs with TV to watch football
Events, especially the May Fayre and the Christmas Fayre, Fun Run

They did not like –
Swearing by older kids in town parks
Queues in shops
The lack of parking
The lack of paper & soap in the toilets at The Cross
People riding bikes on the grass
The high level of traffic in the mornings
Parking in Fieldfare Way
Parking in Green Street
Speeding (esp lorries) in Hawthorn Way
Litter

Roman Way

19/03/12
8 children, 4m 4f, two of whom had been to the Museum and some to the Leisure Centre for swimming.
These children were very small, but wished to ask how the Council organised getting things done, and how we deal with bad behaviour.
They wanted more fast food outlets, e.g McDonalds & Burger King
They disliked litter & graffiti.

Meridian

20/03/12
12 children, 6m, 6f, very articulate and thoughtful group who had been active in RNLI fundraising.

The CDO is very keen to gain access to a survey document prepared by one of the students, which would be very useful in youth work across the town.

They felt that the Police Station was not open often enough
Pavements were often not wide enough for buggies
Need more dropped kerbs for the disabled
Excessive streetlighting, esp in one particular location (Earlsfield Gardens)
Unfinished re-paving of pavements
Should be street lighting in villages
Studlands Rise play area had nothing for young teens, needed seating not in the kiddies' area
Some concerns about adult paranoia

Appreciated the Fish Hill refurbishment

Studlands Rise

28/03/12
8 children, 4m, 4f

These were probably the youngest children we have met.
All liked Royston: some had experience of several other towns as home. Most had visited the May Fayre, the Museum or the cave. Some had visited the snow sports at Bassingbourne. They liked Priory Memorial Gardens and the School Park. Most of them walked to school, most of the time, and were aware of the problems posed by snow in the winter.

They wanted –
More toy shops

Summary

The principal requirements were for a toyshop, a bigger skatepark, and for fast food outlets.

The young people's "wish list" is set out below.

Topic	No.
toyshop	3
bigger skatepark	2
fast food outlet	2
Computer games shop	
York Way park to be bigger	
an open-air pool	
water feature in Priory Memorial Gardens	
graffiti wall	
sports shop	
pet shop	
slide in the Leisure Centre pool	
more dropped kerbs	
more play equipment for young teens	