

## 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 850<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>No.</b>
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	