

**ROYSTON TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY: NOTES FROM WORKSHOP 1:
Tuesday 6th February 2007:**

**Historic & Built Environment, including the Conservation Area, Open Spaces and
Enhancement Opportunities**

Group 1:

Question 1 - Areas of Value?

Have been quite a lot of improvements over last 20 years.

Examples	Why?
Library	Good useful resource for community.
Museum	Attracts tourists – information centre.
Square and bottom of Fish Hill	
Manor House – Social Club	(Listed Building)
All High Street	Is good and views nice.
Priory Gardens	Important open space/only open space in Royston.
Town Hall	Shell is good, but buildings around it not so.
Cave	
Cardinals Gate	New flatted development.
Houses on Upper King Street	Previously stables but now houses.
Jepps Courtyard	Former egg parking station.
Old Police Station	
The Warren open space	As one of a few areas of green open space.
Palace	

Question 2a – Agree with Conservation Area Review?

	Agree/Disagree	Why?
Buildings of Local Interest	Market Hill Rooms (25)	Question over whether it should be included in the Register of Buildings of Local Interest.
	Buildings behind 1 & 3 Green Drift (Area A on Conservation Area Boundary Plan)	These are lovely out buildings (outside Revised Conservation Area)
Landmarks		
Views		
Other Factors	Heath Farm	Should be included in the Register of Buildings of Local Interest
	Corner of Lumen & Mill Road – historic feature	9ft high flint wall – poor condition but lovely.

Question 2b – Conservation Area Boundary.

	Agree/Disagree	Why?
Areas for Inclusion	Possibly extending to include former cinema site.	This affects the Conservation Area and Priory Gardens.
	Question over the addition of area 1 into the Conservation Area.	Concern as to whether the Mill enhances the Conservation Area.
Areas for Exclusion		

Question 3 – Perceived Barriers

	Examples	Why?
Buildings		
Pathways	Lower King Street	Widen footways as this is a very busy road.
	George Lane	Cobbles but need to put down surfacing for buggy's and wheelchairs.
Roads	Lower end of Fish Hill where meets square – pedestrians crossing road to Bakers.	Dangerous for pedestrians pavement needs to be widened at lower end of Fish Hill.
	Melbourn Street crossing is in wrong place.	Should be nearer Police Station opposite church gates.
Others		

Question 4 – Opportunities for Improvement/Enhancement and Change

Examples	Why	How Improve
Bottom of Fish Hill	Could be the focal point of Royston Town Centre.	What happens to the short-term parking?
Jepps Lane	Improvement to environment.	
Angel Pavement		Improve lighting/demolish.
The Cross	Blank façade or end of High Street/Upper Kings Street. (Nat West bank)	
Priory Arcade	Kneesworth Street	
Telephone Exchange		Demolish
South of Corn Exchange (Old Cattle market)	Car park – poor environment	
Area around Town Hall	Needs improving	Town Hall is OK – proper civic centre/theatre etc. Would link to Fish Hill Square and shops on High Street.
Cinema site		

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Group 2:

Question 1 - Areas of Value?

Examples	Why?
High Street	Old Buildings, keep character
Melbourn Street	Banyers Hotel, Church and Priory Gardens
View down London Road	Good
Baldock Road into town (Brow of Hill)	Good
Alley ways/courtyards	Good
Market Place	If tidied up would be an improvement
Fish Hill car park – but one side – backs of buildings	Would lose car park
Roofscape – High Street/Kneesworth Street	
Shop Frontages – Shops on Corner of eastern side of High Street up to John Street.	Good
Lower King Street	Pedestrianise, bins and clutter in street

Question 2a – Agree with Conservation Area Review

	Agree/Disagree	Why?
Buildings of Local Interest	Old Mill (Ugly building)	It is a typical mill not attractive
Landmarks	Church – agree	
	Mill – disagree	Out of character
	The Cave?	Should be landmark – needs proper frontage
Views	Northwards up Kneesworth Street (A on plan) - disagree	Nothing special
	View up High Street	Good views – straight streets
Other Factors		

Question 2b – Conservation Area Boundary

	Agree/Disagree	Why?
Areas for Inclusion	1 - Disagree	No value, not very pleasing
	8 - Yes/No	Private access, don't know it there – no enhancement.
	3 & 4 - Agree	Nice Victorian buildings
Areas for Exclusion	H – Agree	No value

Question 3 – Perceived Barriers

	Examples	Why?
Buildings		
Pathways		
Roads	Better signage into Town Centre and within Town Centre	
Others	Attracting people into it. Car parking charges.	(Why same for all towns). Not level playing field. Car parking is limited.

Question 4 – Opportunities for Improvement/Enhancement and Change

Examples	Why	How Improve
More signage		All around the Town Centre
More car parking and cheaper charges		
Street furniture – public square. High Street, Angel Pavement, Fish Hill, Lower King Street, Upper King Street, John Street, Jepps Lane		One form of street furniture
Agree with re-development of Old Cinema Site.		
Telephone Exchange	Redevelopment needs to be thought about	Do not spoil views.
Angel Pavement		Agree re-development
Priory Arcade	Frontage to be improved compatible with other frontages	Re-develop
Area adjacent to Corn Exchange – old cattle market		Could improve

Other Points Raised:

- We need to understand why people don't come to Royston.
- Re-development of Town Hall – Civic buildings, entertainment – maybe offices – Not Housing.
- Attract and use Town Centre – don't make it lifeless.