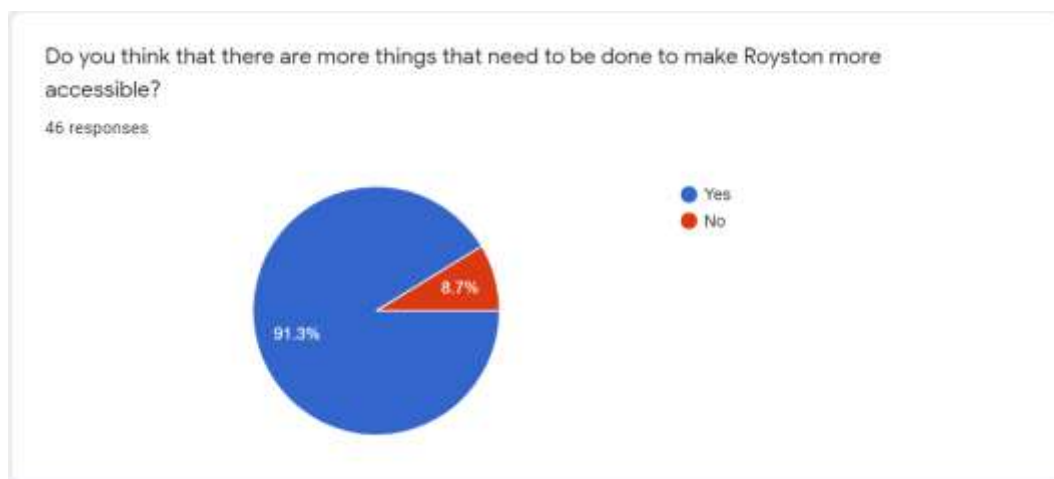


Agenda item 6 – Accessibility in Royston

We are writing to you to discuss accessibility in Royston for wheelchair users, mobility scooters; in addition to pram and pushchair users etc.

We are a group of students completing our National Citizenship Service. As part of our social action project, we conducted an experiment and survey regarding accessibility in Royston town centre and the heath. Our findings were astonishing. We are adamant that these places should be accessible to all, and that everyone in the area should be able to enjoy them. However currently, this is not the case.



As you can see above, a staggering percentage of people believed that more needs to be done to make Royston more accessible, suggesting things such as widening pavements, adding more regular dropped curbs and improving the quality of the paths. Many people aired grievances against the town centre shops, explaining that they are hard to enter as many don't have ramps and that the doorways are too thin. 60% of people said that the Royston Heath wasn't accessible enough, preventing them from enjoying the benefits of a wide open space and the scenery around it. This is simply not good enough.

While improvements have been made, such as adding an island to help cross the road next to the heath, as well as a dropped curb, this was not enough. We believe that more needs to be done to improve the overall accessibility around the town.

On Thursday 22nd of July, we took a group of care home residents in wheelchairs on a short outing around town, stopping off at the heath for lunch on the way. We found that the pavements on Kneesworth Street gave us many complications as they were extremely thin compared to the size of the wheelchair, resulting in us having to walk in the road as we made a judgement that this would be safer than continuing along the narrow and uneven pavement. This shouldn't have been the case. Furthermore, many of the dropped curbs along Baldock Street were uneven and dangerous, causing us difficulties crossing the roads with wheelchairs as the wheels got caught between the pavement and the road. When we finally arrived at the heath, the new island partially assisted us, however the path leading up to the heath itself was completely inaccessible by wheelchair. This needs to change. In turn, although the Island is helpful, it becomes significantly less effective when the surrounding areas leading up to it are not of the standard needed for easy wheelchair access.

We hope that this email promotes change and encourages the council to do more about the lack of accessibility in Royston. Please let us know if you have any queries regarding these issues.

Agenda item 8 – Road Safety Camera Vans

The Commissioner has a fleet of road safety camera vans available for deployment across the county where communities raise concerns about speeding.

You are invited to request deployment of the vans at locations in your constituencies or districts. The Police and Crime Commissioner's pilot project was created for community leaders and members of the public to request additional support to tackle speeding and anti-social driving in their areas.

Many of these areas are 30mph to 40mph zones where speeding is an issue, but not necessarily deaths or serious injuries.

At this initial stage of the roll-out, you can request the van is deployed at a location on your behalf, or that of a constituent, by emailing our office. Currently this email is exclusively for leaders, with members of the public being directed to request the van via the Constabulary's 'echo' system at orlo.uk/BOPFx.



When emailing a request please give as precise details as possible including the road name, nearby junctions and if possible a specific What3Words reference. Please also include if there is a particular time of day where speeding is an issue.

Also note a van can only be deployed where there is a legal and safe place for it to park on public land or with the consent of the landowner. Some sites may require a risk assessment to check suitability and accessibility before deployment. This can extend timescales. In such circumstances we would look to find an alternate solution.

We trust that you will make use of these new vans and the opportunity to make your local roads safer while reducing community concerns.