

## ROSS-on-WYE TOWN PLAN: CIVIC SOCIETY RESPONSE

Overall, this is a very commendable document. However, we do offer a number of suggestions:

ISSUE [at start of document]

We agree with the argument that Ross must seek to increase its responsibilities. Perhaps we need to add something, however, along the lines of “**where responsibility remains with the county council & other agencies, every effort must be made to ensure that those bodies work actively & energetically in the interests of the town**”.

1.1 TRANSPORT etc. EVIDENCE.

Sentence “The Civic Society.....Town & Country Trail”. We would prefer this to read: “**The Civic Society is unable to support pedestrianisation of the town centre as such a development would inevitably be dependent on the creation of a Walford to Hildersley by-pass. In the Society’s view, the construction of a new road, and the associated loss of the town & country trail, would be unacceptable prices to pay for pedestrianisation**”.

2. SPORT & LEISURE

Perhaps even more emphasis should be placed on the pressing need – both in terms of the town’s sense of well-being & its image in others’ eyes - to improve sporting facilities in particular.

TOWN SERVICES etc

3.1 RECYCLING

As the recycling centre appears to be as busy as ever, despite wheelie bin collections, the case for extending the opening times is persuasive & might be more strongly emphasised. Daily opening just conceivably could reduce the incidence of small-scale domestic fly tipping that occurs in the area.

3.2 DISABLED ACCESS –ACTION

“Ask Herefordshire Council .....access legislation” doesn’t read sufficiently strongly: “urge” might be more appropriate.

3.10 TOURISM: AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

Should Jane Lewis’ private/public partnership be listed?

3.11 HISTORIC BUILDINGS: AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

There is a case for not listing the SPAB. If them, why not also include the Georgian Group, Victorian Society and so on? As one of my colleagues says, “better keep it simple & local”.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT etc

4.4 EVIDENCE.

Should “average earnings in Ross .....” read “....lowest in the county”?

I might add that it’s been suggested to me that a copy of the final document be sent to the appropriate Govt minister after the coming election, as an exemplar of a small town seeking to improve the quality of life of its residents.