

Ross Town Plan group

Focus group - adults with learning disabilities

Meeting 14th January 2009

9 people were present and this is what they said:

What do you most like about living and / or working in Ross?

- We like the doctors and the hospital.
- We like the old market place as you can have a sit down.
- You can do computer courses at John Kyrle high school.
- The people are generally quite friendly.
- Good hairdressers.
- Some of us like Morrison's.
- Its quiet compared to Gloucester.
- We like the shops but will miss Woolworths.
- Good pubs.
- Good take-aways.
- We like having a swimming pool.
- We feel safe in Ross.
- It's quiet.

What do you most dislike?

- Some of our friends can't get around very easily as they are in wheelchairs.
- We find the restaurants expensive.
- The buses are not very regular.
- Some shops have closed.
- Crossing the road can take ages as there are so many cars.

What do you think should be done to improve Ross for you?

- We would like a cinema in Ross.
- We want traffic lights by the flat roundabouts.
- Another supermarket by Ross labels would be good.
- We want more coffee shops.
- If we had more traffic lights it would be easier to cross the road.
- We would like more regular buses.

Ross Focus Group – Goodrich Court

22nd January 2009

Present:

13 attendees

Chris Gooding – Herefordshire Partnership

Dai Harries

Clair McNally – Herefordshire Partnership

What do you like about living in Ross?

- ✚ Well placed, the location is excellent, local amenities and transportation is at hand i.e. accessibility to libraries, hospitals and buses.
- ✚ Peaceful location
- ✚ The countryside and the river are beautiful
- ✚ There are plenty of social activities
- ✚ The refuse and recycling collected weekly.

What are your dislikes about living in Ross?

- ✚ Traffic was raised as an area of concern – people find it hard to come into Ross due to traffic signage and the one way system.
- ✚ The traffic in Cantaloupe Road is bad.
- ✚ The knock on effect of the one way system leads to boy racers using it as a circuit.
- ✚ The paving in Ross town causes problems for those disabled or elderly.
- ✚ Wheelchair and scooter users have found that there are problems outside Goodrich Court and at the bottom of Cantaloupe Road where the kerbs are high and there is no drop pavement.
- ✚ The parking bays are not deep enough in Gloucester Road.
- ✚ There is knowledge that the traffic wardens only comes to Ross on a Tuesday, therefore people are aware of this and abuse the system.
- ✚ The steepness of Broad Street can prove problematic
- ✚ Litter is an issue for Ross; it was felt that this was prevalent around the bus shelters. It was felt that this was a direct knock on effect from having few litter bins.
- ✚ People would like the opportunity to recycle more, as there is limited access to the recycling centre.
- ✚ People not cleaning up after dog fouling.
- ✚ Swan House - there is no disabled access (lift out-of-order) and this is where you get your disabled badge!
- ✚ Access into shops for people who require disabled access. (This is the Councils responsibility to audit shopkeepers)
- ✚ There is no disabled group in Ross.
- ✚ Partially sighted people would struggle in Ross as shopkeepers put “A” boards outside their shop fronts on pavements.
- ✚ Partially sighted people would also struggle with the pavements in Ross.
- ✚ People parking on the pavement – High Street opposite Spar.
- ✚ Shop steps are dangerous, especially in Broad Street.

3rd February 2009

Ross Focus Group – Lions Club

Present ;

16 members of Ross Lions Club

Stephen Earl

Dai Harries

What do you like about Ross on Wye ?

- Pleasant / friendly feel about the town
- Good communications within region (eg bus services)
- Town feels safe
- Good Council
- ‘Old Market Town’ image
- French Markets – attract visitors
- Gateway to the Wye Valley

What are your dislikes about Ross on Wye ?

- Apathy of the residents
- Parking
- Empty shops
- Too many charity shops
- Lack of quality shops (eg Waitrose, Marks & Spencer)
- Shabby appearance of the town
- Town needs to modernise
- Out of town shops killing town centre
- No market – yet calls itself a market town
- Access into Ross / traffic flow - one way system needs rethinking
- Town not tourist-friendly re.signage, parking, Sunday opening
- Disjointed sports / leisure facilities – high costs of using JKHS facilities has encouraged some sports groups to go to Monmouth
- Lack of cinema
- Lack of ‘active’ facilities for young people (eg Tudorville Youth Club restricted by rules and regulations)

What improvements should be made to Ross on Wye ?

- Proper well-signed Ring Road
- Tourist Information Centre to be located in an empty shop at top end of town
- Encourage small quality shops with reasonable rents
- Park & Ride from Wilton Car Park in summer (circular route through town)
- One way system to be modified – reverse traffic flow in High Street so that visitors see best aspect of town ; reverse flow in Cantilupe Road to facilitate bus and coach exit from town via Station Approach (thus avoiding congestion at junction of Gloucester Road and Cantilupe Road)