Dear Standish Voice member,

Happy New Year. Here is an update on a number of things Standish Voice is involved with.

**Parking Campaign**

You may have seen that last week we launched a petition to highlight to Wigan Council the worsening problem of car parking in the centre of the village.

Residents, shoppers and local business owners know how poor parking is in the centre of Standish, with some residents unable to park outside their homes, drivers giving up on trying to park and shopping elsewhere, motorists driving round looking for a spot and so increasing congestion, and parents having to drive up to their school rather than parking centrally and walking their children to class.
In the past, drivers relied on the good will of some private car park owners to allow them to shop elsewhere in the village. But recently, more and more restrictions have been placed on parking, so now we need a long-term solution – a new public car park which anyone can use.
Please sign our petition by clicking on the link below or pop into a local shop, pub or business which is hosting a paper petition. There should be a poster on the window advertising it.

We launched it officially via Facebook on Wednesday evening and within 48 hours had 200 signatures, and have had a really positive reaction across the village to the campaign.

There should be a news story on this in the Wigan Observer this week.

The petition is running for three weeks, after which we will present it to Wigan Council, along with a parking survey of the centre of Standish which we have conducted.

The survey gives a clear indication that a new community car park is needed in the centre of the village and we will be releasing that information shortly.

You may ask where a car park would go. Currently, there are two sites in the centre of the village with planning consent as car parks (with additional retail development) but there may be other areas that are more suitable.

We believe it is the work of the council to come up with a long-term solution to the problem once and for all. But first we must make them see there is a problem.

Here is the link to the petition:

<https://www.change.org/p/wigan-council-we-need-more-public-car-parking-in-standish>

**Wigan Council’s The Deal**

We are planning to present the petition and parking survey to representatives of Wigan Council at a special meeting organised at the end of January.

The council’s initiative, ‘The Deal’, is coming to Standish on the last week of this month and there will be a question and answer session open to the public with Wigan Council leader Lord Peter Smith and Wigan Council Chief Executive Donna Hall, where the public can ask questions of them.

We have been asked by the council to present a short talk on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and our other activities.

We also plan to ask the council some searching questions and it would be good to get as many Standish Voice members to the meeting. This is our chance to speak up for Standish.

The meeting has been booked for Thursday, January 28. The times – which are yet to be confirmed – are 4pm to 9pm and it will be held at the Unity Club, on Cross Street.

The first half of the meeting is for local organisations to meet the public and then there will be the Q&A session with the council. I will email again with exact times of the Q&A session nearer the time.

**Christmas Markets**

There has been a tremendous response to our idea to have a Christmas Markets Day in Standish later this year.

We have arranged the first meeting of the Christmas Markets organising group for Monday, January 25, at 8pm in the room above The Globe pub. Please come along if you would like to be involved.

Together we can create an event which will be great for residents and businesses – and hopefully be repeated in coming years.

**Planning applications**

Please send off your individual objections to the Rectory Lane and Langham developments as soon as possible. The email address is planningrepresentations@wigan.gov.uk.

You must give your full address and please state which application you are objecting to. If you want to object to both (and we hope you do), please send separate emails.

There was a story in the Wigan Observer with our comments to these latest plans last Tuesday. Here is a link to that story. <http://www.wigantoday.net/news/local/voices-to-be-heard-on-housing-plans-1-7659984>

Also, we have just found out that the Bloor application (off Pepper Lane) will go to the planning committee on Tuesday, January 19. This is for their detailed permission for 300 homes.

Thanks very much for your continued support. Our next Standish Voice meeting is Tuesday, January 19, at 7.45pm, in the Unity Club, Cross Street. Please come along and meet us.

Best wishes,

Paul Ogden

Vice chair

Standish Voice