Dear Standish Voice member,

Sorry for the slight delay with this March newsletter - but the Easter holidays got in the way…

It has been another busy month for Standish Voice and can I first thank all our members for the support and help we have been given.

Here is an update of what has been happening…

**Standish Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well. We have established subgroups to look at specific issues and subject areas, including transport, the village centre, health and wellbeing, community and educational facilities, housing, business and employment, open space and parks, and parking.

Committee members are leading these subgroups with membership made up from the rest of the committee, our working group and interested members of the public.

These policies are being informed by two pieces of work from consultants and will be co-ordinated into a draft Neighbourhood Plan, backed up by consultation results and evidence. This draft plan will be put out for further consultation in the coming months.

The Standish survey and our agreed Vision and Objectives are guiding all our policies. You can see those on our website, [standishvoice.co.uk](http://standishvoice.co.uk/)

If you have any specific ideas for policies for our Neighbourhood Plan, please email your suggestions tostandishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com

We have been working closely with Wigan Council on the plan and Gill Foster, our chair, and myself, Paul Ogden, vice chair, conducted a presentation to 15 council officers who we need co-operation from to make our plan a success.

**Car parking**

After our successful campaign for more public parking in Standish centre, our Parking Subgroup, made up of representatives from Standish Voice and Wigan Council officers, had its first meeting.

We decided on priorities and discussed sites in the centre which might be suitable for a new council-funded car park.

Firstly, Wigan Council will try to maximise the number of parking spaces at existing sites before pinpointing a site (or sites) for new parking. We will then approach private car park owners to try to free up the large number of spaces they control for more public use.

We will have our second meeting later this month and we will pass on information on progress made.

You can read more about the parking campaign and see the 12-point strategy agreed with Wigan Council here:

<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/information/parking-campaign/>

Wigan Council also sent out a press release on the issue, which is attached.

**The Line**

The Standish Cycleway Project, which will transform The Line from a muddy track into a pedestrian/cycle/horserider route to Standish is underway.

Wigan Council has begun preparatory work on the £150,000 scheme, which Standish Voice identified as a priority for the village.

A planning application will be submitted in the coming weeks and the bulk of the work will be completed in the school summer holidays.

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Parking-Roads-Travel/Travel/Standish-Cycling.aspx>

**Assets of Community Value**

In our last newsletter, we said Wigan Council had granted ACVs on a number of sites, including Ashfield, which will give them greater protection from future development.

We have had another ACV approved, for the pond and community open space at Robin Hill.

We have also submitted applications for ACV status for two pubs, The Crown and The Lychgate, and Standish Cricket Club. We believe these premises are vital to the community.

For more information on ACVs, see this link:

<http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/assets-of-community-value/>

**The Crown**

Standish Voice is helping Worthington/Bradley residents and regulars of The Crown pub fight a planning application to demolish the pub and build houses on the site.

The campaign has received support from across the village, including news coverage and a petition, which has gathered 700 names.

To add your name to the petition, see this link:

<https://www.change.org/p/save-the-crown-at-worthington?recruiter=218515361&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=share_twitter_responsive>

Some of the news stories are attached, one from the Wigan Observer and one from What’s Brewing, the national newspaper of the Campaign for Real Ale.

Also here is a story published in the Manchester Evening News:

<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/pub-regulars-pledge-fight-demolition-10967965>