**Dear Standish Voice member**

Here is the May newsletter for Standish Voice, the Neighbourhood Forum for the village.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

We continue to work hard on the creation of Standish Neighbourhood Plan with a number of sub-groups finalising policies for different areas of life in the village, including housing, transport, open space, health and well-being, business and the village centre.

You might have seen a Government advertising campaign over the past week encouraging communities to develop their own Neighbourhood Plan. It is part of the Government’s policy to make local government more accountable to their communities and give residents more of a say in how local decisions are made.

Standish’s Neighbourhood Plan is the first in the borough. After initial teething problems, Wigan Council is giving us a great deal of help and support to bring the plan forward as quickly as possible.

However, technical reports we have commissioned through a government department into Standish’s housing needs and ideas to improve the village centre have taken longer to approve than we anticipated and this may mean a slight delay in finalising the plan.

If you want to know more about neighbourhood planning, click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1540743269565696&id=1424596621180362>

**PARKING CAMPAIGN**

Standish Voice’s Parking Sub-group has met council representatives for a second time to discuss the lack of parking in the village centre.

The council is committed to solving the problem by making better use of the existing parking, providing a new car park and helping us free up more public parking provision on private car parks.

The council will commission a full parking survey of the village later this year and we are discussing a number of sites with them.

When more details are finalised, we will update you.

For more information, click here: <http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/information/parking-campaign/>

**INCREDIBLE EDIBLE**

Standish Voice Working Group member and Standish In Bloom chairman Tony Jones has set up the borough’s first Incredible Edible organisation in the village.

The idea is to have vegetables and herbs growing in communal areas which the public can pick and consume free of charge when the plants are ready.

Planters and tubs will be springing up across the village, so please get involved.

Tony is looking for volunteers to help him. Please reply to this email if you can do so and we’ll put you in touch with him. You don’t need to be green-fingered, just enthusiastic to help improve your community through growing food. There is no criteria for joining – if you eat, you’re in!

For more information on Incredible Edible, click here: <http://incredibleediblenetwork.org.uk/>

**STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Preparations for Standish’s first Christmas Market on Saturday, December 3, are progressing well.

We have a tremendously enthusiastic committee and we are confident we can stage a fantastic event to celebrate Christmas and our community. And hopefully make it an annual event.

There are a large number of hurdles to overcome and issues to resolve, and we will be giving out details of what will happen on the day later in the year.

Our first event to raise money for the Market was a great success. A Fashion Show was held at the Unity Club, on Cross Street, earlier this month and was a sell-out, with 150 people enjoying the night as well as raising £745 for our coffers. Another similar event is planned for September and other events are in the pipeline.

Keep an eye out on Standish Voice’s Facebook page, or the Standish Christmas Market Facebook page, for updates.

**STREET NAMING**

The council has asked Standish Voice to be involved in deciding names for the new streets for the yet-to-be-built Pepper Lane development, which has full planning permission. Work by Bloor Homes is set to begin in the early autumn.

We are the first community group to be asked to help in this way in the history of the borough and we are asking you, our members, to come up with appropriate names. Please email your suggestions to us.

We want to focus on names of notable people from Standish’s history, especially as Standish Voice historian Stan Aspinall points out that the area to be built on was in the ownership of the Standish Family until just after the First World War.

For information about street names already chosen for the new estates, including the name for the estate road from Almond Brook Road to Pepper Lane, click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1537047993268557&id=1424596621180362>

**COMMUNITY FUND**

The council’s Standish Community Fund recently gave out £4,000-worth of grants to local groups. Incredible Edible Standish won £1,000 and Standish Voice gained £150 to put up bird, bee and bat boxes around the village.

**THE LINE**

A planning application has now been submitted to upgrade The Line into an all-weather cycleway, footpath and bridleway.

The £150,000 scheme will transform The Line, running from the centre of Standish to Brookfield Close, off Old Pepper Lane. Eventually, the route will be lit and the council is in discussion with Aldi to see if an exit can go into the corner of their car park.

Standish Voice negotiated this initiative with the council and the council agreed to bring forward 106 money – from the developers which are building houses across the village – to pay for it.

To see the application, click here:

<https://apps.wigan.gov.uk/PlanApps/PlanAppsDetails.asp?passAppNo=A%2F16%2F82506%2FLA>

**ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

We were successful in declaring Standish Cricket Club and its land as an ACV, which gives limited safeguards to it, if it was ever to be considered for development.

Unfortunately, Wigan Council said applications for The Lychgate and The Crown pubs could not be accepted as we could not prove they provided a use for the community over and above their role as public houses.

We are still helping campaigners who want to stop The Crown from being demolished and houses constructed on the site.

Standish Voice formally objected to the planning application. You can read our objection here:

<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/responses-to-planning-applications/>

A petition to save the pub will be submitted to Wigan Council soon. If you have not done so, I would urge you to sign it by following this link:

<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/responses-to-planning-applications/>

**RAIL SERVICES**

You might know that Arriva North rail company is proposing to axe through trains along the Southport line to some Manchester stations and Manchester airport. Trains direct to Victoria would remain.

This would mean people wanting to travel from Gathurst and Appley Bridge to other stations in the city centre, including at Piccadilly, would have to change at Bolton or Salford. For commuters this is totally unacceptable.

We have joined a campaign movement to oppose this and Wigan Council has backed us, as has Wigan MP Lisa Nandy.

You can read our letter of objection sent to the company here:

<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/information/objection-to-southport-rail-line-proposals/>

**FRACKING**

You might have heard about the granting of planning permission to carry out fracking in North Yorkshire.

Standish and the rest of Wigan has had licences accepted to frack in its area.

A public meeting has been called next month to discuss this and give information about the process and Standish Voice will attend.

Thanks very much for reading this, attached are a number of press articles which we have been involved in as are our minutes for our monthly meetings in March and April.

Please come along to one of our meetings if you are able or keep in touch via Facebook or our website.

Best wishes,

Paul Ogden

Vice chair, Standish Voice