**Dear Standish Voice member**

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

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

A number of our working groups are finalising their draft policies, aspirations and project ideas for the Neighbourhood Plan for Standish.

We have had a report produced by consultants which is helping us formulate our policies for housing in the village.

This is a Housing Needs Survey and goes into detail about what type and tenure of housing is needed by people in the village now, and over the 15 years of the life of the plan.

Housing is, obviously, a particular issue in Standish. It is hard for the Neighbourhood Plan to control the total amount of housing coming to the village as many sites either have full or partial planning permission, or are deemed to be appropriate for housing in the future by the local authority (known as safeguarded land). But hope to be able to stipulate what type of housing is needed for the people who live here, now and in the future, and the timescales involved.

We will also be commissioning consultants with a town planning background to undertake a report on the centre of Standish. Our aim in the Neighbourhood Plan is to make the centre of Standish more attractive for residents and shoppers, enhancing it as a destination for retail and hospitality while preserving its unique character and ensuring it will be a thriving centre into the future.

Our chair, Gill Foster, has completed the lengthy process of applying for more grant money to pay for the next steps in creating the plan, including a wide-ranging consultation exercise on the draft plan, the writing of the final version by a consultant and the checking of it by an expert to make sure it complies with planning law.

If you have any ideas of what we can add to our plan, please get in touch with suggestions or join one of our working groups.

**HOUSING APPLICATIONS**

Two planning applications for housing which were to be heard by Wigan Council’s planning committee were delayed until August.

These were 130-150 homes on land on Rectory Lane (next to the railway line on the left as you go down) that would be accessed through Countryside’s development, which is being built, and 80 on land off Langham Road, which borders The Line. Passing these plans would take the total amount of homes approved for Standish's green field sites to 1,634, plus 150 more on part of Bradley Hall trading estate.

Planning officers recommended these be passed because Wigan does not have a five-year supply of housing. We have expressed our anger at this and have urged planning councillors to refuse these applications, which breach the council’s own local plan. Our response to the media is below with a news article in the Wigan Observer attached.

Wigan Council delayed a decision so it could look at new information on household size forecasts issued by the government, which may alter their decision.

**PARKING CAMPAIGN**

Standish Voice’s Parking Sub-group is continuing to make progress on this.

The council is committed to solving the problem of a lack of car parking in the village centre 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.

With the council, we have been looking at a number of sites across the village which could be suitable for a new car park. However, siting, ownership, covenants, cost and highways implications all have to be considered and so this is taking more time than we had hoped.

However, we are confident a suitable site can be found and this will be included in our Neighbourhood Plan, which will be sent out for extensive consultation.

We are awaiting details of the council’s plan to rearrange and resurface the Quakers Place car park to allow more parking, while at the same time preserving the mature trees which face School Lane.

The council is also commissioning a full parking survey of the village in autumn, too, which will give us all more information on the problem.

For more information on how the campaign came about, follow this link: <http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/information/parking-campaign/>

**STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Preparations for Standish’s first Christmas Market on Saturday, December 3, are continuing and we are hopeful this will be a fantastic, festive day for the whole village.

We have been given permission to close Cross Street for the day. Stalls will be placed along the street and outside the church. The parish car park will be the site of our entertainments area, beer tent and food zone.

The library will be the site of Santa’s Grotto and outside will be a huge snowglobe attraction. We are also planning a Christmas trail around the village.

The Friends of Standish Library and the Women’s Institute have been helping us organise this day, so thanks to everyone who is helping out. We will be asking for volunteers to help on the day, too, so please consider that.

If you would like an outdoor or indoor stall on the day, please reply to this email – an spread the word!

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

Also, we have arranged another fundraising Fashion Show for September. The last one was a sell-out so look out for when tickets go on sale on our Facebook page.

**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 autumn.

We have received a number of ideas for names with Standish associations, but please send in any more. Our ‘top ten’ of street names are at the bottom of this newsletter. Please feel free to give your views on them.

**FRACKING**

Standish Voice reps attended a public meeting in the community centre, which was called by the pressure group Frack Free Wigan, to give the public information about the gas extraction process.

It was informative. Two companies now hold licences to frack for shale gas in Standish.
The companies need to apply for planning permission to Wigan Council for each phase of extraction or exploration, although they don't need permission for some seismic testing work.
The licence for north of Standish is owned by Lichfield company Cuadrilla and the south of Standish licence is owned by Aberdeenshire company Aurora. Licences now cover the whole of the Wigan area, and much of the North West.

The companies are under an obligation to inform the local community if they want to apply for planning permission to frack.

Standish Voice has no fixed view on fracking at the moment but we will be insisting on wide-ranging consultation by the companies if they plan to bring fracking to Standish and the views of the community must be considered. This is especially true of Standish with its long history of mining.

The government has the final say on fracking but we hope to include a policy on the process in our Neighbourhood Plan which could give us some control over the situation.

**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 are springing up across the village, so please get involved. For more information on Incredible Edible, click here: <http://incredibleediblenetwork.org.uk/>

Tony also led Standish’s entry for North West In Bloom, with judges visiting last week. So thanks to him for all his hard work.

Thanks very much for reading this, attached are the minutes for our monthly meetings in May and June. Please come along to our meetings, which are open to the public, on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in the Unity Club, on Cross Street.

You can also keep in touch via Facebook, Twitter or our website.

Best wishes,

Paul Ogden

Vice chair, Standish Voice

**Proposed Street Names**

**1 Cecilia**.

Cecilia Standish is the only woman to inherit the Standish Estates, of which the fields making up the Pepper Lane development were part. She was respected enough to have a fair held on St Cecilia’s Day (November 29) during and after her lifetime. In her will she directed that half a year’s wages be paid to all and every domestic servant and that money raised from the sale of the estate’s livestock should go for the relief of poor families living close to Standish Hall.

**2 Ralph Standish**

Another reference to the Standish family, which owned the fields of the development until they were sold early last century. Ralph Standish was Lord of the manor for 50 years, 1705-1755. Like his father her was a committed Jacobite and led a contingent of Standish men to join the Jacobite army at Preston in November, 1715. In later life he built the Catholic chapel attached to Standish Hall and planted the avenue of beech trees which gave Beech Walk its name.

**3 Strickland**

Another name associated with the Standish family. Thomas Strickland Standish inherited the Standish estates in 1807 and lived at Standish Hall until his death in 1813. During this time he became a Colonel in the Wigan Militia (during the Napoleonic Wars) and continued the development of the Standish coalmines.

**4 Sedgewick**

Peter Sedgewick was Secretary and guiding light at the Boys’ Institute, in Rectory Lane, during the 50s and 60s, the forerunner to the Youth Club. He was also a successful manager of St Wilfrid’s FC.

**5 Ledwith**

Anthony Ledwith was a past president of the Royal Society of Chemistry and a former director of research at Pilkington. He had also been Campbell Brown Professor of Industrial Chemistry at Liverpool University and head of chemistry at Sheffield University. He lived in Standish and died aged 81 in 2015.

**6 Dame Eva Turner**

Dame Eva Turner is one of the greatest opera singers England ever produced. She was one of the greatest voices of the 20th century and toured across the world. She is interred at St Wilfrid’s Church.

**7 Pipe Shop**

There is strong evidence that a Pipe Shop once operated on Robin Hill Lane, which goes through the planned development.

**8 Cherry Orchard**

In the 19th century, there were a number of cherry orchards which were farmed for their fruit on the fields of the development.

**9 Hollans Hey**

An old name for one of the fields of the development.

**10 Finch**

Finch’s Farm is the former name of Robin Hill Farm East, which is on the site of the development.

**Standish Voice’s statement on the delay of the planning applications for housing:**

"We are relieved that these applications for yet more houses for Standish have been withdrawn from the planning committee agenda for the time being.
"To allow these homes would have seen Wigan Council agreeing to schemes that breach its own Local Plan, which is unjustified and undemocratic.
"We were shocked, disappointed and extremely angry at the earlier recommendations to allow yet more houses on green field sites in Standish.
“We know more homes need to be built nationally and Standish is a desirable area for developers, so many people in the village reluctantly accepted a government planning inspector’s view that 1,000 homes had to be accommodated here, despite widespread agreement that roads and infrastructure continue to be inadequate.
“However, the number of homes passed for Standish has increased to 1,550, if you include 150 agreed for one half of Bradley Hall Trading Estate.
“The last round of permissions was refused by the council but, unfortunately, was accepted by a government planning inspector.
"But we were concerned that Wigan Council was capitulating even earlier in this process and, in essence, accepting that there was a free-for-all in housebuilding on greenfield sites in Standish.
“It is not democratic, fair or sensible that one corner of the borough should continue to shoulder all this development in such a short space of time.

"We hope the council ultimately refuses these applications and then mounts a robust defence of its decisions if the applications are taken to appeal."