**Dear Standish Voice member**

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

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Neighbourhood Plan for Standish is nearing completion after many months of hard work.

This document will be a legally binding plan that will have to be adhered to by developers, Wigan Council, landowners, organisations and agencies with regard to land use in Standish.

We have held various meetings, discussions and workshops within our group and with Wigan Council about the policies and information which will go into our Neighbourhood Plan, including the style, look and presentation of the final document.

We have also been successful in securing grant money – around £8,000 – to pay for the next stage in the plans production and expenses for consultants, publicity, consultation and the publication of the plan itself.

We are working to a timescale of having the majority, if not all, of our policies in place to present to the public at the first of our consultation events, which will be Standish Christmas Market on Saturday, December 3.

We have also been successful in securing technical aid in the form of a consultant’s report looking into how we can improve the centre of Standish. We will use this report to help us devise policies for the village centre.

We met architect and town planner Tom Johnson from global consultancy Aecom recently and toured Standish to give him an insight into the positives, and negatives, of our village centre.

Through the findings of our consultation with the public last year, we have an objective to improve the vitality of Standish, increase the number of independent shops, enhance its hospitality trade, improve parking and make the centre of the village a more welcoming and communal place to shop and visit. We also want to enhance the conservation area which is at the heart of it.

No easy task, but Mr Johnson is confident some simple, and not so simple, ideas could make big improvements, while retaining the things we love about Standish. We await his report.

It is worth reminding people that there will be full consultation with the public on the plan before it goes to Wigan Council and an independent planning inspector for review. After these stages it will be put to a referendum across Standish.

As part of the neighbourhood planning process, we will be looking again at our Vision and Objectives for the plan, which were decided upon from the results of the consultation last year.

That original Vision and the Objectives – agreed at our AGM last November – are attached to this email. Please contact us with your opinion of them.

**HOUSING APPLICATIONS**

Two applications for detailed planning permission on housing sites have been lodged with Wigan Council.

These are phase 2 of the golf course (250 homes), on Rectory Lane, and land off Lurdin Lane (93 homes), off Chorley Road.

Outline planning permission, which agreed the principle of building on the sites, was refused by Wigan Council last year but were passed by a government planning inspector.
The new planning applications consider 'reserved matters', including house type, landscaping and design – they cannot overturn the decision to build on the land.
Standish Voice has been looking at the plans in detail and will give its views on them to Wigan Council.
Initial permission for the golf course plan was for 125 homes from Persimmon Homes and 125 from Morris Homes. The majority are 3 to 5 bed homes but there are some one and two-bed units. The first phase of an initial 250 houses are already being built.
Jones Homes has outline planning permission for 110 homes off Chorley Road, but this latest plan seems to scale this back to 93.
A quarter of all homes on both sites have to be classed as "affordable". Both schemes are due to be decided by the middle of November.

Attached to this email is a news story from last week’s Wigan Observer about this, including a quote from Standish Voice.

Three other planning applications we are concerned with - outline permission for housing on Langham Road and the bottom of Rectory Lane, and a plan to demolish The Crown pub, in Worthington, and replace it with housing - have not yet reached the planning committee.

**PARKING CAMPAIGN**

Standish Voice’s Parking Sub-group has continued to meet council representatives over the summer to devise ways of solving the lack of parking in the village centre, recently highlighted again in a press article about severe problems at Standish Medical Practice.

We hope to have some solutions soon which we can add to our Neighbourhood Plan which will go out to full consultation.

**THE LINE**

In August, planning permission was passed to upgrade The Line into an all-weather route for cycling, walking and horse-riding.

The Line will become at bridleway and £150,000 will be spent transforming it from the centre of Standish to Brookfield Close, off Old Pepper Lane.

Standish Voice negotiated the early introduction of this scheme with Wigan Council. Work was due to start in summer but due to legal problems in relation to the various ownerships along The Line, it is now due at the end of this year.

**TRANSPORT**

In March, we highlighted plans for trains from Gathurst and Appley Bridge not to go through to Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport.

In summer, Wigan MP Lisa Nandy launched a petition against this proposal and she, with other MPs and local authorities, has taken this to a government level.

Also, Standish Voice has added to the consultation on a Greater Manchester transport masterplan, called Transport 2040.

We stressed the need to consider outlying areas of the region, asked for the re-opening of Standish rail station to be considered and stressed the need for through ticketing and links with transport companies outside Greater Manchester.

Attached is a copy of our submission.

**STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Standish Christmas Market was launched on our Facebook page to huge enthusiasm a few weeks ago.

It will be held on Saturday, December 3 and there will be stalls, entertainment and food and drink. There has been a huge amount to organise but thanks to our great Christmas Market Committee, we are on top of it.

We also raised around £600 for the day at our latest Fashion Show event – so thanks to everyone who organised that.

However, we do need volunteers to help out on the day. Please tell us if you can help, either for the whole day or just a few hours. Please email standishvoiceevents@gmail.com

You can read the full launch information here:

<https://www.facebook.com/StandishVoice/photos/a.1424596681180356.1073741826.1424596621180362/1576483975991625/?type=3&notif_t=like&notif_id=1473615731361704>

Also, volunteers are needed for Standish Cricket Club’s bonfire night celebration on Friday, November 4. Please consider this. Here is the info on it: [https://www.facebook.com/StandishVoice/posts/1575728006067222:0](https://www.facebook.com/StandishVoice/posts/1575728006067222%3A0)

**FINALLY…**

Sadly, we said goodbye to a valuable Standish Voice member and supporter, Keith Douglas, who passed away earlier this month.

A fitting tribute to ‘Mr Standish’ was published by the Wigan Observer, which is attached.

We will carry on his good work in trying to make Standish a better place for us all.

Best wishes,

**Paul Ogden**

**Standish Voice**