**Dear Standish Voice member**

Here is the latest newsletter from Standish Voice, your Neighbourhood Forum.

**Standish Greenbelt**

It has been quite a momentous few weeks in terms of planning for Standish, with the publication and approval of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF).

This is a plan for development across the whole of Greater Manchester until 2035 and there are proposals to build 225,000 new homes, a quarter of them on currently protected greenbelt land.

There are major developments across the region, with a number on the M61 and employment and housing sites recommended for near Junctions 25 and 26 off the M6.

However, the good news for Standish is that our greenbelt is recommended to remain intact. Not only that, Standish is one of only three areas across Greater Manchester where it is recommended that the greenbelt should increase.

That site is on Rectory Lane, on the left-hand side as you go down the road, next to the railway line. The site currently has an outline housing application lodged for around 130 homes, which has been subject to a long delay.

We fully expect the landowner and housing developer, HIMOR, to argue against this designation but we will be making sure we put up a robust argument to increase our greenbelt.

Wigan Council has recommended this change and we are pleased the authority has listened, through our representations, to the concerns of Standishers in relation to over-development in our village.

Since early this year, we had been concerned that landowners across Standish wanted to increase the level of housebuilding, over and above that agreed in Wigan’s local plan.

After a request from the Greater Manchester authority – a Call For Sites initiative – a number of landowners said their land should be used for housing, including a number of sites on greenbelt.

We chose not to publicise these sites, even though they were in the public domain, as there was no indication at all that they would be accepted. However, if you see the enclosed map of these sites, it is clear the pressure to build more and more housing in Standish is growing and must be controlled.

We believe housing developers will try to change the GMSF to include greenbelt land in Standish so it is crucial everyone responds to the consultation on it.

Here is a link to the GMSF document:
<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/info/20018/greater_manchester_spatial_framework>

Wigan Council has information on how the GMSF impacts on our borough here: <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Planning/GMSF.aspx>

Consultation on the document is open until December 23 and we would urge everyone to send an email in support of keeping the greenbelt in Standish free from development, and extending the greenbelt to include the site on Rectory Lane.

The easiest way to pass on your views is by emailing: GMSF@agma.gov.uk

We will have a number of policies in our Neighbourhood Plan in relation to housing to prevent inappropriate development and only encourage new housing when it is in the interest of the village and to meet the needs of its residents.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

We are now in a position where we can consult the public on a number of our policies and ideas which we hope to include in our Neighbourhood Plan.

We have a few areas of work still outstanding but are confident we can bring you proposals across a wide range of areas, including housing, business, open space, health and well-being and transport in the coming weeks.

There will be widespread consultation, including through social media, but we will be at Standish Christmas Market on Saturday, December 3, to answer questions about specific policies and ideas and how the Neighbourhood Plan works. We will be in the Parish Hall from 11am to 5pm, so please come and talk to us.

We’ll send you more details about this soon and leaflets about the session and the Market will be delivered to homes across Standish in the coming week.

**Standish Christmas Market**

We are putting the final preparations in place for Standish Christmas Market on December 3.

There will be indoor and outdoor stalls, a Santa’s Grotto in the library and a life-size snowglobe on the lawn in front of it. There will be an entertainment stage on the parish hall car park with bands, singers and school choirs performing and our bar will be run by Prospect, who will bring their award-winning beers.

That night Standish Christmas Live takes over with free bands playing in pubs across the village.

We have sold out availability of our indoor stalls but still have some outdoor pitches. So if you of someone you know wants one, please email standishvoiceevents@gmail.com.

Please come along and support the event, but please leave your car at home and come on foot or by public transport as there will be very limited parking in Standish that day.

I’ll send you more details of the day later this month.

**Standish Community Fireworks Display**

Standish Voice helped with the publicity and volunteers on this event, held at Standish Cricket Club last Friday.

Despite the awful weather, it was a well-attended event and the club is hopeful it will have raised a good sum for its on-going improvements

**WHISKY TASTING**

The latest of our fundraising events is an Introduction To Whisky evening later this month.
You can learn about whisky at a relaxed and fun event that will show you the varied tastes and styles of this iconic drink.
There will be six different whiskies to taste and discuss after an introductory talk. You also get to take home your authentic Glencairn whisky glass, which is included in the ticket price.
Tickets are £15 each, with £2 going to Standish Voice's fund for events, which includes Standish Christmas Market. The price includes a minimum of six different whiskies, the glass and tasting notes.
It takes place on Friday, November 25, at 8pm, in the upstairs room of The Globe pub.
Whisky samples and gift sets will be available to buy and the upstairs bar will be open all evening.
You can buy tickets at The Globe pub, or by ringing 074697 28259.

**AGM**

Finally, a reminder that our AGM will be at The Unity Club, on Cross Street, next Monday, November 14, starting at 7.45. All are welcome.

Remember to follow our daily updates on Facebook.

Best wishes,

**Paul Ogden
Vice chair
Standish Voice**