**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Rectory Lane**

A new planning application has been lodged for more housing on Rectory Lane – and we need you to send off your objections again.

Last month, Wigan Council's planning committee ruled it was minded to refuse an original application for 128 homes at Rectory Farm, after the developer, HIMOR, decided to take it to appeal due to the time Wigan Council was taking considering the plan.
That appeal will be heard in May but HIMOR has now resubmitted its application wanting it to be discussed by the planning committee sooner. The application, for land between the railway line and the converted farm opposite The Owls, is the same as before. The added complication in this is that the site is proposed to become green belt (so it cannot be built on) in the new Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, though this would not go ahead if the application was passed by the committee or by a government planning inspector at appeal.

It is very complicated but the simple thing is we need you to object to this plan now - even if you have done so before.
The more objections, the more the council - and more likely a government planning inspector - can see the strength of feeling against more housing in Standish. Any more housing for Standish breaches Wigan Council's own local plan.

Please email your objection to: planningrepresentations@wigan.gov.uk
You can officially object until Tuesday (February 14), but Wigan Council should take objections after this.
Below is a list of reasons you can use in your objection:
\* Over-development in Standish and Rectory Lane in particular.
\* The application breaches Wigan Council's own local plan in terms of the amount of housing allowed in Standish.
\* Effect on the character of Standish and increasing urban sprawl.
\* It would affect highway safety on Rectory Lane - near a primary school - and worsen congestion, increasing gridlock in Standish.
\* The site is recommended to become green belt in the proposed Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

**Langham Road**

Standish Voice has expressed its disappointment and anger at the planning committee passing up to 80 houses on land off Langham Road, on the estate opposite St Marie’s Church. The council argued it was “finishing off” the new Wainhomes development and included 40% smaller homes and four bungalows, which makes it more acceptable. We totally disagree. Attached is a news story about this and our reaction to it.

**Ambulance Station**

A builder wants to construct nine homes on the former Standish Ambulance Station site.
An outline planning application has been put in to build the homes on Glebe Close, where the now demolished ambulance station once stood.
A plan shows seven homes in a terrace with a pair of semi-detached houses and car parking.
Emergency vehicles were removed from the site in December 2013 after 999 services were rearranged across Wigan and the building decayed until it was knocked down.
Nearby residents had complained about the site being a magnet for anti-social behaviour.
The site was put up for sale with a price tag of £175,000 last year and is defined as a 'brownfield' site as it was previously developed.
Chorley-based Mason Developments has submitted an outline planning application and you can send comments or objections to Wigan Council before February 21 by using the email address: planningrepresentations@wigan.gov.uk
Standish Voice is studying the plans closely before deciding its view.
If the plans are passed, more detailed proposals will also have to go to Wigan's planning department for approval before work can start.

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Standish Voice's Christmas Market feedback consultation shows a huge proportion of people want us to stage another event this December.
We asked what people thought of the day-long festive market, held on December 3, and 210 responded by answering our survey.
94% of people thought the market - at which charities raised £7,400 - was 'excellent' or 'good' and 71% thought it was good value for money.
Feedback from many businesses was that their takings for the day were a record figure and 80% of people surveyed said they went to Standish's shops and businesses as well as the Market.
A huge 95% of people who responded want the Market to be put on again this December and 95% also want Standish Voice to organise more community events.
We are in the processes of talking to the authorities involved about another event this December and are taking on board everyone's views before a decision is made but we will be announcing this decision in the next few weeks.

**WHISKY NIGHT**

Fancy making St Patrick's Day extra special this year? Come to Standish Whisky Tasting Evening and enjoy half a dozen drams you may never have tasted before.
The last Whisky Tasting Evening was a sell-out success and so it has moved to a bigger room in the Unity Club on Friday, March 17.
Host is again Paul Dandy, who runs Standish-based Miniature Whisky Company - and £2 per ticket will go to Standish Voice.

Paul says: “Like last time you'll be sampling six different whiskies. I've got a few in store already but I'm trying to find a few more harder to find ones for you to try. This time I'll be providing a (light bite) supper at some point of the evening and given it's St Patrick's night I'll try and make it traditional Irish food. I'm hoping to make a start at 8pm so please arrive a little earlier so we can register everyone in time. The bar in the Unity Club will be open from 7pm so feel free to come and relax and find somewhere to sit before we start.”

Tickets are £18, which includes a £3 refundable deposit on a tasting glass and £2 donation to Standish Voice. Tickets can be bought at the Unity Club or by following this link:

<https://miniature-whisky.yapsody.com/event/index/59848/standish-whisky-tasting-evening>

**RIBBON FOR GORDON APPEAL**

A huge thank-you to everyone who donated money over Christmas to Standish Voice's A Ribbon For Gordon.
We raised £640 in just a few weeks for cancer treatment for Standish businessman Gordon Thorpe and for every pound donated we put a red ribbon on the fencing around the community Christmas tree to brighten it up.
Thanks, too, to the many shops and businesses across the village who hosted a collecting tin.
Pictured is Gordon's wife, Donna, putting the last ribbon on the fencing.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

We will be conducting a major consultation on part of the Neighbourhood Plan in the coming weeks. We will tell you when it launches and will be asking for people to help deliver leaflets to get as many people in Standish involved as possible.