**Dear Standish Voice member**

Here is the newsletter for October.

**DRAFT STANDISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

You should by now have received a leaflet through your door about the draft Standish Neighbourhood Plan.

This is Standish’s chance to influence its future in terms of development until 2030 on issues including housing, parks, open space and improvements to the village centre. Lots of people have been giving their views and it seems to have caught the imagination of many across the village.

We want your views on the draft plan before we conclude the final plan which will then be sent on to Wigan Council to continue its journey to an eventual referendum of people in Standish.

Consultation closes at 5pm on Friday, November 10, and we will be sending out an email reminding you of the deadline nearer the time. We will be holding our third drop-in session to talk to the public about the draft plan in Standish Library this Saturday (November 4) from 10am to 1pm.

The draft plan represents two years of hard work by the committee of Standish Voice and others who have contributed their ideas and expertise towards it and it is the first non-business Neighbourhood Plan to get to this stage in Greater Manchester. As a member of Standish Voice you should be rightly proud of this achievement in our village.

You can read the plan by going through a link on the home page of our website or by reading a printed copy in Standish Library. You can comment through a link on the website or on forms also in the library. You can also send a quick email saying if you approve, or not, of the whole plan by emailing standishplanconsultation@gmail.com

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Chinese Delight**

Standish Voice has objected to a planning application to demolish the Chinese Delight restaurant, on Preston Road, and to build 16 homes on the site.

The designs for the homes, which include a three-storey apartment block and semi-detached houses are overbearing, ugly and not in keeping with the area.

In line with the policy on the site in the draft Neighbourhood Plan, Standish Voice would like to see any housing on this site being for older people or all affordable housing.

**Chadwick’s**

For several months, Standish Voice has been liaising with Mr John Chadwick over using part of his land next to his butcher’s and food store for a public car park.

We had meetings with Mr Chadwick a number of times in 2016 about the site being a car park but at that time he would not agree to this.

We also have been in talks with Wigan Council and commercial car park operators about this site and have relayed this information to Mr Chadwick.

He has submitted a retrospective application for a car park, which has been created behind his existing car park. It has enough space for 35 cars.

Standish Voice wholeheartedly approves of this application – which is in line with our draft policy to create a car park in the centre of Standish. However, we would like to see conditions attached to any approval that it is a public car park, for stays of up to three hours, preferably free of payment, though we do understand commercial activities need to make money.

If this car park is open to the public, Standish Voice would like to thank Chadwicks for providing this facility.

You can look at the details of both these planning applications by going to this council website: <https://apps.wigan.gov.uk/PlanApps/>

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Preparations for Standish’s second Christmas Market are going well. The last month before the Market is, of course, an incredibly busy time for preparation and we have promised a bigger, better, more festive Market than last year.

The organisation of this year’s Market has been even more complex than last year as we have agreed with Wigan Council and the police - in the form of a Safety Advisory Group - to prevent access to general traffic to Market Place and Church Street. Residents and visitors to businesses and other premises will have controlled access at all times. As last year, Cross Street will be totally closed to traffic. We have informed the residents of these streets by letter but if you have any questions about this, please contact us via email.

The costs of the day runs into many thousands of pounds and liaison with the 80 stallholders, mostly professional, demands well-drilled organisation. The size of Standish Christmas Market is now of a size only usually taken on by a council or commercial operators and, with large liabilities at stake, we have had to work closely with the police and council to guarantee that we can fulfil their very demanding expectations to ensure the event goes ahead as planned.

We have double the amount of stalls and two more venues have joined in the festive celebration this year. Shops and businesses are joining in too, so that the whole village can enjoy the celebration of Christmas, centred on our beautiful St Wilfrid's Church.

On Saturday, December 2, Market Place and Cross Street will once again become the place to be as we welcome both residents and visitors to our second Standish Christmas Market. As promised, Standish Voice's Christmas Market team have worked hard to make this year's Market bigger and better, while keeping the focus on local business to promote a thriving community.

Cross Street will be lined with stalls again, as will the front of the church. A road diversion will be in place and Standish Voice will have a team of marshals making sure the event passes off safely again.
We want to thank Wigan Council and the police for having faith in our abilities to do this.

The market opens at 11am will see the opening of outside stalls on Market Place and Cross Street and the indoor craft halls. There will be three craft halls this year, one inside St Wilfrid's Parish Hall and two at Standish Methodist Church, who were very keen to join Standish Voice's event.

After a sounding of St Wilfrid's bells, the Mayor of Wigan, Councillor Bill Clarke, will officially open the event at noon and switch on the lights of the village Christmas Tree. The Market will also see the return of last year's favourite attractions; Santa's Grotto in the library, the Snow Globe, the Christmas Trail around the village centre businesses. The improved live music stage will be back on St Wilfrid's Parish Hall car park, supported by St John Rigby College, who have also nominated some of their students to perform. There will be choirs and bands throughout the day.

The main bar in the beer tent will be operated by the village's very own Albion Ale House serving a selection of beers from local breweries and soft drinks, while mulled wine, mulled cider and prosecco will be served at a second bar, run by Standish Voice. Or, if you fancy something a little different, there will be gourmet cocktails served from a horsebox.

As the events on the Parish Hall Car Park end at 8pm, we will hand over once again to Standish Live Festival who will provide music and entertainment until last orders in Standish’s pubs and bars, and also raise money for their nominated charity.

Standish Voice is hoping to beat last year’s total of £7,500 raised for charities across the whole day.

Standish Social Club (formerly the Labour Club) is also joining in the fun this year and will offer speciality hot chocolate drinks and there will be fun and games for children - and adults. The library will have a number of small stalls, face painting, a balloon modeller, lucky dip and, of course, their Christmas Grotto. We're also keeping a couple of surprises to ourselves to nearer the time.

We need a large number of volunteers, so if you can work with us on the day, please email us.

**CHRISTMAS TREE AND DECORATIONS**

Standish Voice has brought together representatives from across the village to improve its Christmas decorations and we can announce there will be a living tree planted in Standish this year!

The new tree, with decorations and ultimately paving and railings, will be paid for by a mixture of grants, sponsorship and fundraising and will hopefully be a festive focal point we can all be proud of. We raised more than £1,000 on Facebook in one evening on Sunday night to act as a community contribution to this to pay for decorations that will make the new Christmas Tree - to be planted in front of St Wilfrid’s church - the best it can be.

There were many complaints about the tree and decorations last year, so if you can contribute to the fund, however small the donation, we can ensure the decorations will be much better this year.

If you can contribute, go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/standish-chrismas>

Standish Voice committee member Ron Wade, who has chaired the Christmas Decorations Group, which includes representatives from the Royal British Legion, Standish Community Forum, Standish Community Centre, Standish In Bloom and Councillor Ray Whittingham, said: “The Christmas Decorations Group are pleased to announce that after overcoming many obstacles, Standish will have its very own real living Christmas Tree.

“A living tree has the advantage that, although it is not cheap, it should outlast most of us! It is also much more eco-friendly than having an intensely farmed cut tree every year - and, in the long run, will work out cheaper. The project will involve buying the tree and decorations this year and then having paving and decorative railings around it next year.

“We have some promises of funding from Councillor Whittingham, Wigan Council and businesses but will have to raise some funds from the community in Standish. The more we raise the more special we will be able to make it look.

“We have only been able to source a smaller tree than we would have liked (4.5 metre instead of 5.5 metre) and this tree will be straight from the forest, so will not be the ideal shape. However, we have our very own tree expert in the village who has assured us that it will improve and grow each year into a perfectly conical-shaped Christmas Tree - with a little TLC, of course. We have also liaised with the Church authorities over the maximum height we would like this to grow to, which is no more than 8 metres.

“Also, the paving and decorative railings will only be in place for next year and as the tree has to be fenced, we will have no alternative but to put up some temporary fencing this year. However, we have already sourced this and it will be at a much lower level than last year.”

Separately, the Fairhurst councillors are hoping to improve the shop front Christmas Trees and add lamppost decorations. The shop front trees will be placed at a time decided by the Christmas Decorations Group, which will be nearer to December than the last few years, to allow the flags to be flown for a proper period after Remembrance Sunday.

Money raised from the public will this year go towards decorations and also be put to laying flagging around the tree and railings, which will be done for next year.

**THE BEECHES**

Owners of The Beeches are promising to turn the historic house into a thriving bar and restaurant after total refurbishment.

Standish Voice has been in touch with new owners, Elle R Leisure, over the past few days after travellers set up a temporary home on the car park.

The Manchester-based company acted as quickly as possible to remove the people illegally occupying the car park and, with the help of bailiffs and police, the group moved on. A van and concrete blocks now block the entrance to the School Lane site and security will be at the building while bollards are installed at the entrance.

There were fears when The Beeches closed in January that the landmark house, dating from the beginning of the last century, could be knocked down for a housing development. However, Standish Voice told the council that if this was planned, we would move quickly to protect the building by asking for it to have listed status.

Thankfully, Manchester-based Elle R Leisure, which runs the upmarket and popular Albert's chain of bar restaurants, bought the building and is planning to open Albert's Standish next year, marking a real coup for the village.

A spokesperson for Elle R Leisure told Standish Voice: "We have purchased The Beeches and are really excited to become a part of the Standish community. We hope that we will bring a really vibrant restaurant to your village and also provide great job opportunities for a lot of the locals.

"We are still very much in the planning stages but what we are proposing to do is keep the magnificent house and turn the downstairs into private dining rooms/function spaces. We will also build a single story extension to create the Albert's Standish restaurant on part of the existing car park. Currently, we're not sure what the upstairs of the house will become, however, it's unlikely we will continue to run it as a hotel.

"Of course, all of the above is subject to getting planning but we will cross that bridge if we have to!
We're making good progress with our architect so hopefully the ball will get rolling in early 2018.”

**STANDISH FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

Tickets for Standish Community Firework Display being held at Standish Cricket Club this coming Friday (November 3) are now on sale across the village.

Please support this event which raises money for the village’s cricket club as they do such great work, including working with children across Standish.

Tickets cost just £3 for adults and £2 for kids. There will also be children's rides, food and a bar.
Tickets are available from: The Hoot bar, High Street; Standish Dental Practice, Church Street; Standish Chiropody Practice, Preston Road; The Country Store, Chorley Road (only until tomorrow); Chadwicks, High Street, Standish and Derby House, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington. You can also pay on the door. Thanks to all those establishments for helping.

Doors open at 6.30pm, with the display beginning at 7.45pm. All money goes to the cricket club to fund their activities. Please leave your car at home.

The cricket club is in need of volunteers on the night - only for a couple of hours - so if you can spare some time to help out please contact events@standishcc.co.uk

**STANDISH VOICE MEETINGS**

We have held our monthly meetings in Standish Unity Club since we launched Standish Voice in summer, 2014, but now we are looking for a new home.

Our usual meeting room on the third Tuesday in the month has had to be given up and we are now trying to find a permanent room for the new year.

As we have no funds available for room hire, this is making it more difficult. But we will find one and tell you when we do.

Our next meeting will be the AGM, which will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday, November 15. We have been kindly hosted by My Life, the charity which is based at Thompson House, on Pepper Lane. There is a good car park so, unlike the centre of Standish, parking will not be an issue.

We thank My Life for donating their venue to us and we would also like to thank the Unity Club for hosting us for the past few years, recently under trying circumstances.

This is because we received complaints from the club and its members of shouting and aggressive behaviour from certain individuals who have recently been attending our meetings. Have no doubt that we will take steps to ensure they will not repeat this behaviour in our next venue.

We will send out an agenda for the AGM nearer the date of the meeting but the meeting will, of course, include the election of committee members.

If you would like to stand as a member of Standish Voice’s committee, you must email our chair, Gill Foster at our standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com address before 7.30pm tomorrow (Wednesday, November 1), which is in line with our constitution.

You must be a member of Standish Voice to stand and, though you need not be present at the AGM to be a candidate, you must give your apologies to the chair ahead of that members meeting if you cannot be there in person.

In that email putting yourself forward for the committee, you must state your name and address and give information on what qualities you can bring to the role, bearing in mind all the various activities Standish Voice undertakes.

If you are elected on to the committee, you will, of course, take on full and total responsibilities of Standish Voice’s current activities - legal and financial - including Standish Christmas Market. Standish Voice is legally bound to point out that as an unincorporated association, committee members have a contractual relationship between them which does not confer the limited liability of a company. This means that members who enter into contracts with third parties on behalf of their association can become personally liable under that contract. This includes all the contracts signed on behalf of the present committee in relation to Standish Christmas Market.

We will send out a pack of information on what is required in terms of being a committee member to each candidate.

Best wishes,

**Standish Voice Committee**