EMAIL TO MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Dear Standish Voice member

We are pleased to tell you that the draft version of Standish Neighbourhood Plan was launched today at noon – the first non-business Neighbourhood Plan to reach this stage in the whole of Greater Manchester.

It is a comprehensive document designed to influence the village’s development until 2030. If it is adopted it will give our community a real say in changes across Standish.

We now want your views on the policies in the draft plan and a six-week consultation on it is open now until Friday, November 10.

Neighbourhood Plans have legal weight and must be taken into consideration when bodies such as Wigan Council make planning decisions.

We hope some of the proposals will also be used when the council decides how to spend developer and government funds which are due to Standish as part of the huge housebuilding programme that is taking place in the village.

Standish Voice consulted widely about many aspects of life in the village and from this, a Vision for the future and Objectives on how to achieve it were created.
Comments from Standish people on them, as well as from further consultations, helped to shape the policies outlined in the draft Standish Neighbourhood Plan.
Highlights of the draft plan include policies to:

**Influence the amount of new housing**

**Ensure any new housing meets the needs of Standish and its people**

**Make the village centre more attractive and vibrant**

**Control the number of hot food takeaways in the village centre**

**Create a new park in the village centre**

**Improve existing recreation areas, parkland and open space**

**Support more car parking in the village centre**

**Create and improve cycle paths and footpaths**

**Protect our historic pubs**

**Create new green/wildlife corridors**

Standish Voice is consulting on the draft policies and can alter them before Wigan Council does its own review and consultation on the final plan. This plan will be studied by an examiner before it is put to a vote of the whole village in a Yes/No referendum to adopt it or not.

Please read the draft plan by going to our website, www.standishvoice.co.uk, where you can read or download it, or by reading a printed copy of it in Standish Library.

On the website and in the library are also associated draft plan documents: Maps, which relate to the policies; an Evidence Base, which outlines evidence which backs up the polcies; Standish Housing Site Assessments, a process needed when looking at housing across Standish and Externally Commissioned Reports.

As part of preparation for the draft Neighbourhood Plan, we commissioned Aecom, a respected consultancy, to look at the housing requirements and across Standish in relation to the house building taking place and the sites and proposed housing already given planning permission.

Aecom’s findings have helped to shape the policies in the draft plan and we will be writing to you again to explain the findings.

Also, Aecom produced a ‘Standish Village Masterplan’ which looked at how it thought the village centre could be improved. We have taken some of their ideas as part of the draft village centre policies and discounted other ideas they came up with. Standish Village Masterplan is very much as starting point to think about how the village centre can be made better.

In terms of The Rec, on Southlands Avenue, Standish Voice has decided not to include a policy that has a site allocation of a car park on The Rec.

The consultation on The Rec showed, in a poll and in written representations, that 60% of people wanted a small car park on The Rec, with 40% saying a car park was not wanted.

We also said we would take into special consideration the residents who live near to the site.

We believe 60% in favour is not large enough to warrant a policy in the draft Neighbourhood Plan and also, an alternative site could also be available.

John Chadwick has offered part of his site on High Street as a public car parking and we have been talking to him about this for a number of months.

Before the consultation on The Rec, Standish Voice and Wigan Council looked at all available sites for a public car park in the centre of Standish, including Chadwick’s site, which we were repeatedly told was not available.

Therefore, we will re-establish the Standish Car Parking Working Group to look at all these sites again, including The Rec. The Group will include two members of Standish Voice and Wigan Council officers, and the three Standish with Langtree ward councillors and a representative of Don’t Wreck Our Rec campaign group will be invited onto it.

The Rec is currently underused. We have a draft policy to create a community park on The Rec, which includes children’s play provision, including for ball games, footpaths and community gardens.

Standish Voice would like to see a junior football pitch as part of those plans.

The consultation on The Rec repeatedly heard that people wanted children to use it much more, and this is reflected in the policy.

There are a number of policies in the plan which we will, if necessary, explain at drop-in sessions, via email and on social media.

We really do want your opinions and will take them into account when we produce the final Standish Neighbourhood Plan.
Give your views by emailing us at standishplanconsultation@gmail.com or by writing to us on paper and posting it in our postbox at Standish Library.
You MUST include your NAME and FULL ADDRESS for us to consider your comments. Your comments and name will be made public, but not your address.
Standish Voice will also hold public drop-in sessions where you can talk to us about the policies.
We will also publicise the draft policies on social media, using Facebook - @standishvoice - and Twitter - @StandishVoice.

Social media comments cannot be authenticated so will not count in the consultation. Consultation closes at 5pm on Friday, November 10.

The drop-in session a are on Saturday, Oct 7 at 10am to 1pm; Saturday, Oct 21 at 10am to 1pm; and Saturday, Nov 4 at 10am to 1pm. All sessions will be held at Standish Library on Cross Street.

Can we thank all our members for their support in creating Standish Neighbourhood Plan and their views about it over the past months.

We will be putting a leaflet about the draft through the letterbox of every home in Standish, so if you can spare a few hours to help with that, please reply to the email offering your help.

Thanks very much.

Best wishes,

Standish Voice Committee