Dear Standish Voice member

This is the newsletter for November 2017 from Standish Voice.

**AGM**

We would like to thank all members of Standish Voice who came to our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, September 15.

About 100 members attended the meeting at the My Life complex, off Pepper Lane, and we would like to thank the centre for hosting us free of charge.

There were annual reports from Chair Gill Foster, Vice Chair Paul Ogden, Treasurer Karen Bliss and Membership Secretary Ron Wade. Gill and Paul’s reports are attached, as are the Annual accounts.

With no other members putting themselves forward to stand for the committee, and all 15 of the present committee wanting to stand again, the committee was returned to office unopposed. They are: Gill Foster, Paul Ogden, Karen Bliss, Ron Wade, Jaime Jones, Rev Andrew Holliday, Diane Gore, Nic Macmillan, Sarah Djali, Brian Jones, Allan Foster, Nicky Ogden, Dave King, Fran Aiken and Janet Monks.

The committee re-elected Gill as Chair, Paul as Vice Chair, Karen as Treasurer and Ron as Membership Secretary. As no-one came forward to fill the position of Minutes Secretary, as last year Paul will assume that responsibility.

We are grateful to the six people representing organisations from across Standish who spoke at the meeting in support of the work of Standish Voice: Neil Whittingham, of Standish Community Forum; Chris Velone, of the Standish branch of the Royal British Legion; Chris Crossan, from the Friends of Standish Library; Heidi Lipscombe, of Save The Crown campaign; Tony Jones, of Standish In Bloom/Incredible Edible and Paul Hassan, of Standish Cricket Club.

Changes to our constitution were also agreed by members at the AGM. These changes are outlined in an attached document. In summary, these changes mean that committee posts are now for a maximum three-year term with elections of five posts (and any other posts which become available during the year) at each AGM, which will now be held each January, beginning in January, 2019.

After a debate on the constitution changes, the AGM voted to alter the constitution with 87 votes for, 4 against and 4 abstentions.

**STANDISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The consultation on the draft Standish Neighbourhood Plan ended on Friday, November 10. We would like to thank everybody who commented on the draft plan.

We had 210 submissions which we will now look at in detail. This represents an excellent response to our call for people to take part in the consultation.

During the statutory six-week consultation period, we delivered or handed out 10,000 leaflets across the village explaining the process, held three question and answer-style drop-in sessions at the library and also gave out leaflets and information in the street. We also used social media to explain many of the policies in the draft plan.

We will now look to alter the draft plan where appropriate in light of the responses, some from statutory organisations, and produce a final version which will be put to an EGM of Standish Voice members for approval.

If it is approved, it will then be sent to Wigan Council for the next stage of its approval process, hopefully culminating in a referendum of Standish residents asking that it is adopted.

We would also like to thank all the people who helped us to deliver leaflets, which went to every home in Standish.

**VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE AND DECORATIONS**

You may have seen the living Christmas Tree that has now been planted in front of St Wilfrid’s.

Standish Voice brought together representatives from organisations across the village, and Coun Ray Whittingham, to form a Christmas Decorations Committee to make our tree and lights much better.

The Committee agreed that a living tree should be planted in front of St Wilfrid’s Church and we secured a donation from Joseph Holt’s brewery, which has recently bought and refurbished The Lychgate pub, to pay for it. We would like to thank Holt’s for their generous gesture. The church authorities have said that the tree should grow no more than 8m high and we will ensure this is the case.

Some of the money raised from our crowdfunding campaign – which is now at £1,330 – will be used to pay for lights on the tree with the rest going towards paying for decorative flagging and fencing, which will be installed next year. Collection tins to boost the fund have also gone out to pubs, shops and businesses in Standish.

We would like to thank everyone from the Christmas Decorations Committee for their hard work on this.

**STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET**

The Christmas Market, next Saturday (December 2), is almost upon us and the Christmas Market Committee is working very hard to put the finishing touches on the preparations. We promised the Market would be bigger and better this year and we are confident that we can fulfil that aim.

We still need volunteers who can help out on the day, so if you are able to do that, please email standishvoiceevents@gmail.com with your details as soon as possible.

**The Crown**

We have some fantastic news regarding The Crown pub, in Worthington, which we have been campaigning to prevent being demolished, along with the Save The Crown campaign.
The landmark pub and hotel closed almost two years ago and Standish Voice has helped campaigners from Save The Crown, who have fought tirelessly against plans to knock down the historic building to make way for housing.

We have now been told that a sale has been agreed for the building for it to become a pub again, serving food.

The buyer is not yet being named but the agent who has been marketing the building, Rod Burney, of Standish-based Aspire, confirmed a sale had been agreed. Aspire tweeted: “‘Saved!’ Aspire are pleased to confirm that a sale has now been agreed for The Crown at Worthington as a business.”

A planning application has been on hold since it was submitted in January, 2016, after the pub closed suddenly. Real ale fans, residents and Standish Voice objected to the plans, which would have seen the Platt Lane pub, which had been open since the 1860s, demolished to make way for six houses.

We want to thank the Save The Crown campaign for their hard work and Aspire for helping to secure the building's future.

**STANDISH VOICE MEETINGS**

There will be no monthly Standish Voice meeting in December as we need to work through the consultation responses before announcing an Extraordinary General Meeting to approve the final Standish Neighbourhood Plan.

We are hoping to announce this EGM as soon as possible and, in line with our rule on Membership Meetings, we will give two weeks’ notice of that meeting if it is to take place.

We have announced that we are leaving the venue of our monthly meetings and are looking for a new venue and we hope to announce this soon. We would like to point out that the reason for moving venues from the Unity Club was not due to the appalling behaviour of some people at our recent meetings. The club has been very patient with this situation. If some of our members were given this impression we apologise to our members and the Unity Club for any misunderstanding.

The bad behaviour of a handful of people is regrettable but was not the reason we had to move our venue. Standish Voice has a code of conduct for meetings and those allowed into the meeting should abide by it.

We would like to thank the Unity Club for hosting us for the past few years. The club has been very accommodating to all organisations across the village and is an excellent, award-winning venue that the village should rightly be proud of.

As ever, if anyone has any questions on any items in this newsletter, please email us at standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com

Best wishes,

**STANDISH VOICE COMMITTEE**