**Dear Standish Voice member**,

Here is the newsletter for January from the committee of Standish Voice

Hello, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Many of you will have come to Standish Christmas Market, organised by Standish Voice, on the first Saturday in December.

We are pleased to report that the day was a huge success and we want to thank everyone involved in organising the event, helping on the day, giving co-operation for it to take place and all those who came and enjoyed themselves and added to the festive, community atmosphere.

We have been given a huge amount of appreciation, praise and thanks from those who attended and traders on the day. A large amount of money was raised for good causes and we covered our costs so that another Christmas Market can be held again next year. A formal decision on this will be taken soon.

Despite the not very good weather, we had as many people come to the Market as last year and it also vindicated our decision to invest in bigger marquees on the Parish Hall car park and to spread the event into other indoor venues, including the Methodist Hall and Standish Sports and Social Club. The Friends of Standish Library did a fantastic job in organising events in the library – including making sure many children got to meet Father Christmas.

At the end of this newsletter, we add the names of those people and organisations we would like to thank in making Standish Christmas Market such a success.

As part of the day, the lights on the new living Christmas Tree were switched on – something that we would like to make a tradition of.

We have been fundraising over Christmas to pay for flagging and decorative railings around the tree to be installed ready for next Christmas.

A crowdfunding campaign, grants and money collected in tins in shops, pubs and businesses have helped to raise enough money for this.

We would like to thank the Christmas Decorations Group, chaired by Standish Voice committee member Ron Wade, for organising this and Standish branch of the Royal British Legion for the loan of their collection tins over Christmas.

I’m sure you will agree that the decorations are far better than in previous years and the centrepiece to the village’s Christmas, the tree, will grow to a maximum height of 8 metres, as agreed with the church.

Over Christmas and the New Year we have been working our way through around 200 responses to the draft Standish Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank-you to everyone who took time to read the plan and submit your thoughts and suggestions.

We have to respond to those submissions in a formal way and they will be published with the Final Plan in due course.

As you can imagine, some of the responses will take time to process, especially from house-building companies which have raised a number of objections to the Plan’s emphasis on influencing the amount and timescale of future development and its aim of ensuring the housing needs of Standish people are catered for.

We will publish the Final Plan ahead of an Extraordinary General Meeting of members. That meeting will agree, or not, to send the Plan to Wigan Council to continue its journey through the implementation process.

If you attended our AGM in November – and around 100 of you did – you would have heard that one of the disappointments we had was the delay to the transformation of The Line into a multi-use path.

We have been pushing for this to be done for a number of years after Wigan Council agreed to bring forward money – as part of the developers’ contributions to infrastructure improvements – to pay for it.

We had hoped the council would start work last summer. However, the council had to formally designate The Line as a bridleway (to allow horse riders and cyclists as well as pedestrians to use it legally) and a landowner objected.

We have been pushing for this problem to be overcome quickly and a the start of the year we were notified that the legal objection had been withdrawn, giving the council the go-head ask for tenders for the work.

You can read a council press release – which includes a statement from us – here:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/News/Articles/2018/January/Green-light-for-Standish-cycling-project.aspx>

On Tuesday, Wigan Council’s planning committee agreed to an outline application from Wainhomes for 80 homes at Langham Road.

This application was agreed last year but had to be referred back to the committee to agree revised terms of what Wainhomes should pay towards infrastructure in Standish. Wainhomes argued the original amount was too high.

Standish Voice objected to the application on the grounds that it too many homes had already been allowed in Standish, the poor access and that the proposal did not comply with the Housing Need Survey (HNS) we commissioned for Standish Neighbourhood Plan. That HNS said smaller homes for primarily older people were badly needed – not more family homes, of which a large supply is currently being constructed.

Gill Foster, our chair, attended the meeting and verbally raised our objections ahead of the committee agreeing to the application.

It is disappointing that this decision has been made but we will continue to campaign against inappropriate development in Standish and it further shows the importance of a Neighbourhood Plan that can help with this.

The revised Greater Manchester Spatial Framework – a regionwide plan – is being discussed now and we have been lobbying for no reduction in Standish’s Green Belt, which would allow development on more green fields.

Wigan Council is in the process of reviewing all its Green Belt as part of this process and we have argued that this land – which circles Standish – should be kept intact or even enhanced. However, we know landowners and developers are trying to reduce our Green Belt to give even more space over to housing in the village.

The new draft Framework will be published for consultation in summer and we will keep you informed.

Our next monthly meeting will be held next Tuesday (January 23) at 7.45pm at our new venue, the Pavilion at Standish High School. A map is attached to show you where the Pavilion (marked with a ‘P’) is on the school site. We only have the room for two hours, so we will have to end the meeting at 9.30pm.

Please see our website for past minutes of our monthly meetings, as well as past newsletters and our accounts.

**Best wishes,**

**Standish Voice Committee**

Our thanks to all the following involved with Standish Christmas Market – sorry if we have missed you off!

Volunteers - Adrian Taylor, Alastair Macmillan, Allan Foster, Anthony Jones-Stig, Brian Jones, Carrie Monks, Chantelle Dietz, Chris Djali, Chris Velone, Claire Callaghan, Dan Sumpton, David Darby, Debbie Parkinson, Debbie Rickard, Diane Gore, Edith Burnley, Eleanor Bliss, Enid Kendrick, Erik Newman, Fran Aiken, Gareth Thomas, Gill Foster, Heidi Lipscombe, Helen Sharples, Helen Smith, Hugh Crossan, Ian Trafford, Isla Campbell, Jaime Jones, Janet Monks, Jill Whitham, Jo Jones, Jodie Middleton, John Gore, John Trafford, Judith Hackett, Karen Bliss, Kathy Robertson, Marie Noon, Maddy Ogden, Mark Parry, Mick Hackett, Miles Ogden, Neil Robertson, Nic Macmillan, Nicky Ogden, Paul Dandy, Paul Ogden, Pauline Finch, Penny Murphy, Pete Wilson, Ray Whittingham, Ron Wade, Sam Leake, Sarah Djali, Sheila Carroll, Steven Iddon, Tracey Howson, Viv Newman.

Committee - Jaime Jones, Kathy Robertson, Ron Wade, Ian Trafford, Paul Ogden, Christine Crossan, Yvonne Winstanley, Gareth Thomas, Debbie Parkinson, Sarah Djali, Helen Smith, Diane Gore, Marie Noon, Jill Whitham and Clare Callaghan.

Raffle Prizes - CostCo at Haydock, [Currys PC World](https://www.facebook.com/curryspcworld/?fref=mentions" \t "_blank) Wigan, [The Lychgate](https://www.facebook.com/TheLychgateStandish/?fref=mentions)(Joseph Holt), [Studio One Yoga](https://www.facebook.com/studiooneyoga/?fref=mentions), [Boars Head Inn Standish](https://www.facebook.com/BoarsHeadWigan/?fref=mentions), [The Charnley Arms](https://www.facebook.com/thecharnleyarms/?fref=mentions), Halo CHD, [La Mama Cafe Restaurant](https://www.facebook.com/LaMamaCafeRestaurant/?fref=mentions), Robinsons Late Spot, [Simply Beautiful Standish](https://www.facebook.com/simplybeautystandish/?fref=mentions), HD Brows and Beauty ([Standish Brows & Beauty Bar](https://www.facebook.com/standishbeauty/?fref=mentions)), [Mrs Lyon's Tea Room](https://www.facebook.com/mrslyonstearoom/?fref=mentions), [Cinnamon Indian Cuisine](https://www.facebook.com/cinnamonstandish/?fref=mentions) in Standish, [The Laurels at Charnock](https://www.facebook.com/thelaurelsatcharnock/?fref=mentions), Jo’s Barbers on Preston Road, [Bang & Loop Hair and Beauty](https://www.facebook.com/Bangandloophair/?fref=mentions)Standish, [Jules Bridal Boutique](https://www.facebook.com/julesbridalboutique/?fref=mentions), Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Gill and Allan Foster.

Contractors and support - Heather, Helen and Ian at Wigan Council, everyone at the Better Neighbourhood Fund; PC Clive Rigby and the officers of Greater Manchester Police and PCSOs on the day, Darren and Shaun at ADS Marquees. Phil and Lorraine at Leisuretec; Kev and the team at the [Albion Ale House Micropub](https://www.facebook.com/albionalehousestandish/?fref=mentions); Gitte and David at [Three Tipsy Mates](https://www.facebook.com/ThreeTipsyMates/?fref=mentions); Kathryn and the team at [Hollyfold Donkey Hire](https://www.facebook.com/Hollyfolddonkeyhire/?fref=mentions" \t "_blank). One Stop Hire, Mark and David at [St John Rigby College,](https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-John-Rigby-College-Wigan/176750762449965?fref=mentions) Standish Library and [Friends of Standish Library](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofstandishlibrary/?fref=mentions); Uniloos, Elle R Leisure, the new owners of The Beeches; Dave Bone and all at [Joseph Holt](https://www.facebook.com/josephholtbrewery/?fref=mentions)f; Adrian Taylor at Taylor Calibration Ltd; Gareth Thomas at RT Design; Sonia Richardson at Tesco and Nicky at [MyArtisanMarkets](https://www.facebook.com/myartisanmarkets2016/?fref=mentions" \t "_blank). The Standish Knitters.

Local Cooperation - Arnold & Phillips. Emma Appleton/Elsa, Suzanne Causey at Tania Brown limited. Steph, Kathryn and Andrew at Standish High School, Phil Jones, The Globe, The Standish Bellringers, Standish Unity Club, The Standish Centre, Cross Street Arts, Craig at The Hoot, The Wiper Company, everyone at Mrs Lyon’s Tea Room, The Lychgate, Jane Wood Chiropody, Potters Bar, the team at Standish Social Club, St Marie’s Church, and most of all, the residents of Cross Street, Church Street and Market Place.

Churches - Rector Andrew Holliday and all at [St Wilfrid's Church,](https://www.facebook.com/stwilfridsstandish/?fref=mentions) and Janet in the Parish Hall, Reverend Ian P Hamilton and John Grayson at Standish Methodist Church.