Dear Standish Voice member

Here is the newsletter for March.

The much-delayed project on The Line, which Standish Voice has been pushing for a couple of years, seems to be finally underway.

Vegetation has been cut back along parts of its length, ahead of the bird nesting season, to allow for the work creating a multi-use path to begin in spring.

The work, which will see a cycleway and footpath with low-level lighting constructed from School Lane to near Old Pepper Lane, is now out to tender by Wigan Council and construction is due to be completed by the end of summer.

In our last newsletter, we said we were seeking a meeting with Homes England, the governement’s housing arm, over the new planning application for homes on the site that was formerly part of Bradley Lane Trading Estate. Homes England has submitted a new application for 163 homes for the site, off Bradley Lane.

The application shows that 85% of the homes have three or four bedrooms. In our meeting with Homes England we stressed that the homes needed in Standish are now mainly for older people and more affordable ones – with bungalows especially needed so older people can downsize easily and still live in the village.

At the meeting, Homes England said it would look into altering the mix of housing planned for the site and get back to us.

The re-drafting of Standish Neighbourhood Plan is going well. We received around 200 submissions during the public consultation into the first draft, some highly technical, and we are altering the draft in some instances to reflect them.

When the final version is complete, we will submit it to our members and call for an Extraordinary General Meeting to vote to allow, or not, the plan to be sent to Wigan Council for the next leg of its journey through consultation to the final referendum in Standish.

Developers still want to build on greenfield land in Standish. But Standish Voice has had assurances from Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham that the Green Belt around the village should not be changed in the new region-wide plan, due out in summer.

Landowners and developers have asked for a number of sites in Standish’s Green Belt to become housing in the future. However, we have been lobbying Wigan Council not to change the Green Belt in Standish to allow this, as part of discussions on Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

The next draft version of the GMSF is due out in June and we spoke to Mr Burnham about this after a question and answer event he held in Wigan recently.

He said that previously developed brownfield land would be prioritised first for housebuilding and we will be having further discussions with Wigan Council about this in the coming months and stress that Standish’s Green Belt needs to be left alone.

Attached is a map of Standish showing where landowners and developers want to build in the Green Belt but this could only happen if Green Belt boundaries change in the plan – and we will be working hard against any possibility of that. You can read more about the sites on the GMSF Call For Sites webpage here: <https://mappinggm.org.uk/call-for-sites/>

Standish Voice’s Christmas Market committee has met for its first meeting to discuss the possibility of another event this December. We discussed how the event could be improved if it goes ahead. A formal announcement on this year’s event will be made in the next few weeks.

Our next monthly meeting is at the Pavilion at Standish High School at 7.45pm this Tuesday, March 20. Our members, and the public, are welcome to attend.

Best wishes,

Standish Voice Committee