**Dear Standish Voice member**

Here is the newsletter from Standish Voice for May.

**EGM**

We would like to thank all the members who attended our Extraordinary General Meeting last week and supported the Standish Neighbourhood Plan.

Members voted to agree the Final Draft Plan and to send the document to Wigan Council for the next round of consultation in its journey to adoption.

We would especially like to thank Standish councillors Ray Whittingham and Adam Marsh who spoke so passionately about how the plan can benefit Standish.

The final draft plan is currently having a ‘health check’ carried out on it by an independent planning expert to make sure it complies with the basic conditions needed to meet national planning policy.

When Wigan Council receives the Final Draft plan, it will carry out a six-week public consultation on it where people can have a further say on the revised policies, some of which were amended after our own consultation in autumn.

The submissions to this consultation will be sent to an independent planning examiner who will consider them alongside the Final Draft plan and changes can be made ahead of a referendum of people in Standish to adopt it.

Wigan Council is responsible for the publicity and timing of its consultation, but we will, of course, keep you up-to-date with its progress.

**GMSF**

Another important planning document in relation to development in Standish is the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

Publication of the revised draft document - produced by the combined authority of Greater Manchester - has been delayed by a month and is now set to be made public in July.

The GMSF can alter the Green Belt in Standish. If this happens, many more homes could ultimately be built on our green fields.

Standish Voice has been lobbying against Green Belt changes in Standish since the GMSF was announced and we are hopeful no change to Green Belt here will be put forward.

We know some landowners and developers across Standish want to build yet more homes on our countryside, but we are confident Wigan Council has taken notice of our arguments that enough homes are planned for our village already, that our infrastructure cannot cope with any more and that our Green Belt is vital to keep Standish from becoming suburban sprawl.

**The Line**

Work on creating a multi-purpose path on The Line began this month and is due to last 16 weeks, taking in much of the school summer holidays.

If construction goes to plan, the new route should be ready for when pupils return to Standish High School in September. There will be various diversions in place for pedestrians while the work goes ahead.

Standish Voice has pushed for this improvement to be made to The Line for a couple of years and we are pleased work is finally underway after a series of delays.

Standish Voice’s chair, Gill Foster, attended a ceremony to mark the start of construction and you can find out more about the project and the timescales here:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/News/Articles/2018/May/Standish-Line-works-under-way.aspx>

**Thorley Smith**

You may already know about Standisher Thorley Smith, who was a pioneer for women’s votes in the early 1900s.

Thorley was born and brought up in Church Street, Standish, and went on to be the first person to stand as an MP on a campaign of women’s sufferage.

As this year is the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote, Thorley was named as one of 100 women’s sufferage pioneers and recently had a plaque unveiled in his honour at Wigan Town Hall.

Standish Voice has asked Wigan Council if one of the new roads which will soon be constructed in Standish could be named after Thorley in a further tribute to his achievements and we are hopeful this will happen.

To read more about the plaque unveiling and Thorley, go to: <https://wigan.gov.uk/News/Articles/2018/May/Blue-plaques-unveiled.aspx>

**Planning applications**

Standish Voice has objected to a revised planning application submitted by Bloor Homes to increase the number of houses on its Pepper Lane/Robin Hill Drive development.

No new land would be taken in this new application. However, we believe the type of housing applied for does not meet the needs of people in Standish.

Our Housing Needs Assessment for Standish showed clearly that too many family homes were being built or proposed for the village and not enough homes for older people and affordable homes are planned.

At the bottom of this email is the objection which has been lodged with Wigan Council.

**Council election**

Last month, a new councillor was elected in Standish and we are delighted that Councillor Adam Marsh has agreed to join Standish Voice’s Working Group.

The Working Group helps, supports and advises Standish Voice’s Committee and already includes current councillor, Ray Whittingham and Debbie Parkinson, who also stood for election as the Labour candidate, coming within just 15 votes of Adam in the poll.

Standish Voice believes we can all work together to improve Standish and meet the many challenges our village faces as it grows rapidly over the coming years.

When Standish Voice formed in 2014, the three sitting councillors - all Standish Independents - were invited to join our committee. However, they declined the offer.

But the door remains open to the only remaining Standish Independent councillor, George Fairhurst, to work with Standish Voice on its many projects across the village, alongside the Working Group and organisations within our community

**GDPR**

In the light of new data protection regulations which have come into force, we have updated and strengthened our policies on this.

You can read our policies on protecting your personal information on our website, through this link: <http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/data-protection/>

We would like to remind you that you can unsubscribe to our monthly emails at any time by replying to this email.

Please remember to take a look at the Neighbourhood Plan and other information about Standish on our website, [www.standishvoice.co.uk](http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/)

**Best wishes,**

**Standish Voice Committee**

**Re: A/17/84731/MAJES - land to the south of Pepper Lane, Standish.**

The Building & Development sub-group of Standish Voice has considered the above development proposals and makes the following comments/observations on the outline planning application:

We note that the detailed proposals show a preponderance of detached and semi-detached executive houses. There are no dwellings suitable for single persons or for older people, and the overall proposals do not reflect the needs of the local community as described by Standish Voice in their draft Neighbourhood Plan.

A Housing Needs Assessment was carried out on behalf of Standish Voice by Aecom, and highlighted the over-abundance of executive housing and the lack of suitable accommodation for elderly people and the young.

There are already too many executive houses in Standish, and these proposals simply exacerbate the imbalance in demand and provision for local people. We consider that the type of housing proposed in inappropriate and that provision for older persons should replace these unnecessary executive properties.

We are also extremely concerned that any linkage between the Bloor Homes development and the Cat I’th Window development by Wainhomes will result in a link road which could be used as a ‘rat-run’ between Almond Brook Road and Pepper Lane. This is directly in contravention of Wigan Council’s own policies against ‘rat-runs’.

We also request that this significant development is put before ‘Places Matter!’ design review panel - at the developer’s expense - to ensure the design and layout is properly scrutinised and commented upon by a panel of recognised and impartial design professionals.

In conclusion, we object most strongly to this planning application on the simple grounds that the proposed development is unnecessary in terms of meeting the 5-year deliverable supply as required by Wigan Council’s Core Strategy. It does not provide the type and mix of housing that is needed by the local community, and it is a loss of valuable open green space in Standish.

Please acknowledge receipt of these comments.

Yours faithfully

**Allan Foster, Standish Voice (Thematic Lead for Buildings and Development)**