**Dear Standish Voice member**

Here is the newsletter from the Standish Voice committee for September and October:

**THE LINE**

We were really pleased to see that the upgrade of The Line, from School Lane to Brookfield Road, was finished on schedule and is now being used by a large number of people.

Cyclists, walkers and horse-riders have given us very favourable comments about The Line refurbishment and we hope it will be a really well-used route into and out of the village centre.

Standish Voice met Councillor Ray Whittingham and Councillor Adam Marsh, council officers and police officers recently on The Line to discuss a few instances of anti-social behaviour regarding the use of motorcycles on it.

The police will monitor the situation and new signs will be put up so that those caught using motorbikes on The Line by the police can have their machines confiscated.

Rubbish bins are due to be installed at certain points along The Line and we hope dog owners will use these bins for their pet’s mess too. The delivery of the bins has been delayed due to a problem at the manufacturers but Wigan Council tell us they will be installed within weeks.

Wildflower seed is due to be sown along the edges of the path and, hopefully, fruit bushes and trees can be planted at certain points along it. We will keep you updated on this.

We would like to thank everyone in Standish Voice who has helped to bring this upgrade about and Wigan Council for working with us to achieve it.

**BRADLEY LANE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

Several months ago, we objected to the new planning application for housing brought by Homes England for the demolished half of Bradley Hall Trading Estate. Although planning permission was granted in 2014, the permission has now lapsed and a new one has been submitted.

We objected to the types of housing being planned on the 160-home development by Homes England – the government’s housing and regeneration agency – which is mainly three and four bedroom family homes.

The Standish Housing Needs Survey, which was written for us by consultants Aecom, shows a severe lack of homes for older and elderly people in Standish. More family homes similar to the many hundreds being built by private developers are not needed. Surely, the government’s own housing arm should be building homes that are needed in Standish.

More homes for the elderly also increases the ability of people to downsize their home in old age and still live in Standish, in turn freeing up a larger home for families.

We have written to Homes England, the Housing Minister, MP Lisa Nandy and Wigan Council to object and ask that Homes England plan more homes for elderly people on this site. We will keep you informed of their response.

**STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET**

The Christmas Market Committee is working hard on preparations for this year’s event on Saturday, December 1.

We have had a great response from businesses in Standish willing to sponsor the Market this year – providing vital funding. We shall be thanking them publicly in due course.

Meanwhile, there are a handful of indoor and outdoor stall pitches available for the day. If you would like to apply for one, please email standishvoiceevents@gmail.com as soon as possible.

**MILES STANDISH COMMEMORATION**

In September 2020, Standish Voice is planning to host a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower, which travelled from England on its journey to America, transporting pilgrims to the New World.

The military captain of The Mayflower was Myles Standish, who was part of the wider Standish family of the time. Although Myles’s birthplace is still subject to debate, a number of historians believe he was born in Duxbury into a branch of the Standish family, whose ancestors came originally from Standish Hall.

At the time of Myles’s birth, Duxbury was part of Standish parish, which had St Wilfrid’s Church at its centre. Myles would very much believe he was part of the parish of Standish and we want to celebrate his close links with our modern village.

Descendants of Myles in America are planning a trip to England in 2020 and want to visit Standish as part of a tour of places linked with their famous forefather.

Standish Voice would like to create an event in September 2020 which would mark the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower sailing but also celebrate the whole of Standish’s rich history.

**STANDISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

We are hoping to submit the Final Draft version of Standish Neighbourhood Plan to Wigan Council this month.

An outside body has conducted a ‘health check’ on the document and suggested we make minor changes and add clarifications, extra detail and maps in certain sections. We have also updated some of the evidence to ensure the most up-to-date information is contained in it.

Wigan Council will then put the Final Draft out for consultation before an examiner goes through the plan to decide if the policies can be put to a referendum. After that stage, changes may be necessary before the referendum on adopting the plan is held in Standish.

We have also heard that Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, which will decide on Standish’s Green Belt boundaries, is being delayed yet again. It was due to be made public in October but this deadline may be extended. We will keep you informed.

**ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND**

We wrote to the Royal Bank of Scotland to object to the closure of its Standish branch, due in January. It is the last bank branch in Standish and we pointed out that the village has a large elderly population and that access to other centres by public transport is relatively poor in Standish.

However, RBS said it would not reconsider its plans, due to the decline in branch usage and the rise in online transactions. It has made arrangements for RBS transactions to be carried out at Post Offices, including Standish.

**FACEBOOK**

Standish Voice’s Facebook page continues to grow and it now has more than 6,500 Follows. The page is a great source of local news, information and we answer questions via messages from the public daily. You can see the Facebook feed on our website.

In the past few months, we have had to ban two people from the site - one for extremely aggressive comments and swearing and another for racism. The total number of people banned from the page is now six, an extremely small number, which shows how well users generally behave on our Facebook page. We have robust rules and we enforce them to make sure everyone can use the page and give their views in a safe and abuse-free environment.

Best wishes,

**STANDISH VOICE COMMITTEE**

Please note, due to new data regulations, we would like to remind you that you can unsubscribe to our regular emails at any time by replying to this email.