Dear Standish Voice member,

Here is our newsletter for November.

**STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET**

We hope you all know by now that Standish Voice’s third Standish Christmas Market returns to the village on Saturday (December 1) with around 60 stalls, attractions, eight hours of entertainment, our drinks marquee, Father Christmas, games, the Santa Trail and fun, festive things to do.
It is all open from 11am to 8pm and is a great day out for the whole family.

From Christmas present ideas to delicious street food, there will be something for everyone from our Market traders. There will be indoor stalls in St Wilfrid's Parish Hall, two rooms in the Methodist Hall and outdoor stalls along Cross Street and on the Methodist Church car park. This year, Market Place will be the foodie area with hot snacks and more.

The entertainment marquee is on the Parish Hall Car Park again this year and there will be acts from noon until 8pm. Choirs from all three Standish primary schools will be performing and Wigan Ukulele Club will also make a welcome return. There will be bands and singers too.
The Unity Club, on Cross Street, will open in the afternoon for the first time to host a Festive Karaoke where you can belt out your favourite Christmas hits with money raised for charity.

Standish's Albion Ale House will head up our drinks marquee and there will be a mobile gin bar from OneTen Bar and Standish Voice's own bar serving mulled wine, Prosecco and soft drinks.

We will have a Living Nativity, where children can pet nativity animals in a safe environment. There will be all manner of creatures in a Christmas setting. And there will also be a festive photo booth where people can dress up in seasonal costumes and take photos of themselves with friends and family.

Thanks to the fantastic work of the Friends of Standish Library, the library will be the place for children to enjoy themselves with a Punch and Judy stall, ice cream, a face painter, games on the lawn and, of course, Santa in his grotto (tickets to see Santa have now sold out).

The Santa Trail returns too, a fun route for families around Standish shops and businesses finding the knitted Santas - with a prize or two at the end as well.

At 4pm, there will be a Community Carol Concert in St Wilfrid's Parish Church to which everyone is invited; Cross Street Arts will have an open day and the Parish Hall and Methodist Hall will also be open for refreshments. The Methodist Church will also be open for activities during the day.
We will have the official lighting of Standish’s Christmas Tree at 4.30pm and Wigan Warriors will also be joining us for the day.

The whole event runs from until 8pm before Standish Live is due to begin with bands in Standish pubs into the night.

Cross Street and Market Place will be closed to traffic for the day but residents and businesses of Church Street have been given passes to allow them through the road block on Market Place. We would like to thank all the residents and businesses of those streets for their co-operation.

Many thanks to our company sponsors this year - shown on the flyer - especially to our Gold Sponsor, Ainscough Group.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers (around 50 of them) from across the village that are helping on the day – without them the event could not be staged. And, of course, we’d want to extend a huge amount of gratitude to the members of the organising committee, who have given many hundreds of hours of their own time arranging the day. Let’s hope the rain stays away.

**STANDISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Wigan Council is now asking for views on Standish Neighbourhood Plan. Our Draft Plan is in the second round of consultation and we are asking all our members to support it.

We know housing developers will be strongly opposing our policies on housing, as it seeks to control the number and type of homes built in Standish in the future. Developers and landowners will be making forceful submission against these proposals.

A Planning Examiner will look at all the submissions before deciding if the policies need to be changed ahead of the plan progressing. So we need as many Standish people as possible to write to Wigan Council in support of it to show the Examiner that the community is behind giving local people a say in the scale and type of homes to be built in Standish in the future.

It is especially important at this time as Standish’s Green Belt – the green fields which circle the village – is still vulnerable to change and possible alteration to favour of house building in the draft Greater Manchester plan, due out in the next few months.

Other than housing, the Neighbourhood Plan also has policies to improve many other aspects of life in the village, which include:

**Making the village centre more attractive and vibrant
Controlling the number of hot food takeaways in the village centre
Protecting valuable green spaces from development
Creating a new park with sport facilities in the centre of Standish
Enhancing existing recreation areas, parkland and open space
Supporting more car parking in the village centre
Improving cycle paths and footpaths
Protecting our historic pubs
Declaring new green/wildlife corridors**

Please use the following link to fill in an online form to comment on the plan:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Planning/Neighbourhood-plan/Feedback-on-Standish-plan.aspx>

The Final Draft Plan is attached to this email and you can also read all the background on the plan, including reports, information, maps, consultation responses and evidence backing up the policies by following the link below:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Planning/Neighbourhood-plan/Final-Draft-Neighbourhood-Plan.aspx>

**STANDISH CHRISTMAS TREE**

The railings around Standish Christmas Tree have been installed and I’m sure you will agree they are far better than the ugly metal fencing used in previous years.

These are a permanent addition to the living tree, planted last year, and match ones around the nearby well.

Woodchip mulch has been added below the tree, free of charge, by Standish tree and woodland services company, C P Grimshaw ([www.treesurgeonwigan.co.uk](http://www.treesurgeonwigan.co.uk)) so we would like to thank Peter and his team for that.

The tree will grow to double the size it is now in the coming years to a maximum of eight metres, agreed with the church.

Standish Voice co-ordinated the railings, with money raised via our crowd-funding campaign, through Standish Decorations Committee, which included people from organisations from across the village and Councillor Ray Whittingham.

The council put the lights on the tree today (Thursday) and there will be an official switch on at Standish Christmas Market at around 4.30pm.

I’m sure you will agree that the tree is now a centrepiece to the village which we can all be proud of.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

You may have seen that plans have been drawn up to build a development for older people on the Chadwick's site in the centre of Standish.

The scheme, which is being consulted upon before a planning application is submitted, would mean Chadwick's selling their land, all buildings demolished, and the site turned into retirement accommodation by specialist housebuilder McCarthy And Stone.

The site would have "high-quality Retirement Living and Retirement Living PLUS (Extra Care) accommodation". It would mean 31 Retirement Living apartments and 61 Retirement Living PLUS (Extra Care) units, landscaping and on-site car parking.

Letters about the proposals have been sent to around 1,000 households living near the site with details of what is proposed and a public presentation of the scheme was given last week, which many Standish Voice committee members attended.

Standish Voice has been looking closely at the proposals and is discussing them with the developer.

**OTHER NEWS**

Standish Voice committee members have been busy helping other groups in the village with us helping to marshal at the very successful Standish Fireworks Display at the Cricket Club, which is becoming a popular event in Standish’s calendar; the fantastic Remembrance Day commemorations where a huge crowd came to pay tribute; and at a tree planting on Southlands Rec, organised by the Friends of Southlands Rec.

Standish Voice vice chair Paul Ogden, who administers Standish Voice’s Facebook page, met with Greater Manchester Police’s Sgt Nick Forshaw to discuss policing in Standish and how the page can help communicate policing issues. He was joined by Standish Community Watch administrator Debbie Parkinson. Regular meetings will take place from now on.

That’s all for now. Please come and visit the Standish Voice marquee on Saturday at the Christmas Market where you can find out all about the Neighbourhood Plan and meet Standish local historian Stan Aspinall, who will have some of his new Standish history books for sale. We will be on Cross Street.

Best wishes,

**Standish Voice Committee**