Dear Standish Voice member

Here is the newsletter for February and March.

**STANDISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

An independent planning examiner is currently going through Standish Neighbourhood Plan to assess all its policies and findings.

She will look at all the responses to the statutory consultations and has made a visit to Standish to look around the village to see all the sites and issues involved.

She has asked Wigan Council and Standish Voice for more information on a number of aspects of the plan and asked our opinion on some of her initial responses to the document, which have been replied to.

We know the examiner will make revisions to the plan but we are hopeful these will be positive and the final wording will be something both the village and Wigan Council can support.

We will inform you of the examiner’s final report and our response to it when we receive it, which we believe will be the beginning of May.

Meanwhile, you can see the plan and the supporting documentation and submissions here: <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Planning/Neighbourhood-plan/Final-Draft-Neighbourhood-Plan.aspx>

**BRADLEY HALL**

Last year, Standish Voice wrote to the government objecting to the planning and homes strategy for the demolished half of Bradley Hall Trading Estate.

In early 2018, we objected to the new planning application for housing brought by Homes England for the site. 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. We argued that 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 larger homes for families.

Standish Voice wrote to Homes England, the Housing Minister and Wigan Council to object and ask that Homes England plan more homes for elderly persons or affordable homes on this site. We also asked Wigan MP Lisa Nandy to look into the issue.

Lisa Nandy has written to us to say that Homes England has agreed that the Housing Needs Assessment will be given to developers in the selection process for construction on the site and it will meet Standish Voice ahead of the ‘reserved matters’ stage of the planning application, when the detail of house type and size is decided.

**FOOTPATHS**

Standish Voice has pressed Wigan Council to improve the footpaths around the village for a number of years. This culminated in the improvements to The Line.

Wigan Council has now said it has secured money to improve the bridleway along Robin Hill Lane, from Robin Hill Drive, across The Line and on to Almond Brook Road, near the Cat I’ Th’ Window. The specification for this is still being worked out and it will then need to go out to tender ahead of a date for the work to start. We wish to thank Councillor Adam Marsh for pushing this route with the council.

We are also hoping parts of The Line which are still existing between Standish and Wigan can receive a similar treatment.

Also, Standish Voice had a meeting with Councillor Marsh, Councillor Ray Whittingham, Wigan Council officers and the police to discuss access to The Line by motorbikes and, in a few instances, by cars.

The council has now decided to install planters at specific spots on The Line to deter this.

**GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK**

The consultation on the city region’s planning document for development across Greater Manchester to 2035 has now closed.

Standish Voice responded to the document and gave its views on various policies within it. The responses will inform the next draft of the plan.

The main issue in regard to Standish is that, thankfully, the plan does not reduce the amount of Green Belt around Standish, it is left intact. This is despite a number of developers and landowners wanting this to change the Green Belt so more housebuilding can take place on a number of sites across the village.

We will continue to urge the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to resist the submissions by developers to erode our Green Belt and hope the final GMSF will preserve it for the lifetime of the plan, until 2037.

Our response to the GMSF is attached to this email.

**POLICE LIAISON**

Standish Voice has continued to meet the local GMP policing team to discuss issues in Standish.

We contacted the new owner of The Beeches after we received a number of complaints about parking there during the building work.

The owner agreed he would resolve the situation quickly. We believe the work on The Beeches and the building of a new restaurant there will be completed by summer.

If you have any specific policing issues in Standish, please email us with them.

**STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET**

The Standish Christmas Market committee has met a couple of times already to discuss this year’s event and we are pleased to say it will go ahead.

We are hoping to stage another successful event and a provisional date of Saturday, November 30, has been selected. However, we need to confirm this with a number of organisations, including Wigan Council.

**STANDISH LEISURE CENTRE**

A new date for the opening of Standish Leisure Centre has been given after a delay in the start of its construction.

The building will now open in early 2020, according to Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles. More information on the facility is at this website: <http://new.standishleisurecentre.org/>

For our newsletter sent out in January, previous newsletters, our minutes or any other information on Standish Voice, please go to our website, [www.standishvoice.co.uk](http://www.standishvoice.co.uk)

If you would like to unsubscribe from emails or to cancel your Standish Voice membership, please email us. We will then delete your details from our database.

Best wishes,

**STANDISH VOICE COMMITTEE**