**Village says Yes to the Neighbourhood Plan**

We want to thank all our members and supporters who voted ‘Yes’ for Standish Neighbourhood Plan in such overwhelming numbers.

Not only was the 94.5% Yes vote significant in the mandate it gives to all the policies in the plan, but the turnout of 30.4% adds weight to the legitimacy of the Plan as a statutory document that needs to be followed in planning law by Wigan Council, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and government Planning Inspectors. The turnout was comparable to the recent local election.

We want to thank all those people who delivered leaflets which gave people across the village information on the Plan, Wigan Council for running the poll and everyone on Standish Voice committee for their hard work over the years in creating it.

Standish Voice spent a long time consulting people across the village before and during the process and the huge Yes vote shows that the Plan is a document the vast majority of residents support.

Standish Voice was established five years ago this month and we asked the then Standish Independent Fairhurst councillors to join the committee. They refused and also would not support us becoming a Neighbourhood Forum – we were the only Forum in the country not to have the support of local councillors.

They also refused to take part in the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan and did not make any submissions in the many rounds of consultation on it.

We were therefore saddened when the Standish Independents campaigned for a No vote in the referendum and during their campaign not only spread false information about it, but wrote untruthful, hurtful, personal attacks on the volunteers on Standish Voice’s committee.

However, we take encouragement from the backing we are given by current Standish councillors - Ray Whittingham, Adam Marsh and Debbie Parkinson - and we would like to thank them for their long-time support.

The councillors were prevented from commenting on the Plan during the lead up to the referendum due to election rules but are fully supportive of it and met us to congratulate us on the result (see photo).

Standish Voice is non-party political and we will be working closely with all three councillors to ensure the policies are implemented and other projects benefiting Standish are progressed.

You will be pleased to know that four areas of Standish used by the community are now protected from development as a consequence of the Yes vote.

Almond Brook ponds, Southlands Rec, the triangular field next to Standish High and the Victoria Pit area all automatically gained Local Green Space status, which gives these green, recreational areas Green Belt-style protection and prevents them being used for development.

Standish Voice met Wigan Council’s Chief Executive after the vote to discuss the process for enacting other policies and we were also pleased with a supportive editorial comment on the Plan in this week’s Wigan Observer (see photo).

**Standish on the TV**

The BBC featured Standish Neighbourhood Plan on its Sunday Politics show after political reporter Kevin Fitzpatrick visited Standish to interview Standish Voice chair Gill Foster.

The Plan was the first of its kind to be passed in Greater Manchester and other Forums in Wigan and in other areas of the city region are now following our lead.

You can watch the report here. However, the report and discussion includes one important error. It is stated that Standish Voice paid for the Plan preparation itself. This is not true. We successfully applied for grants to cover the £15,000 cost of the process.

**Standish Christmas Market**

Preparations for the fourth Standish Christmas Market on Saturday, November 30, are progressing well and many aspects of the day have been confirmed.

We have been overwhelmed by the number and quality of stalls applying for a pitch. The window for applications closes on August 4, so please reply to this email if you would like us to send you a trader application pack.

We have had an encouraging response to our call for businesses to sponsor the Market. If you would like to sponsor us in return for some great publicity, please get in touch.

We were also successful in our grant application to the Duchy of Lancaster, which gave us £250 for Standish Voice activities, including the Christmas Market. We would also like to thank Cllr Whittingham, Cllr Marsh and Cllr Parkinson for agreeing to donate £100 each for their Brighter Borough funds towards the costs of this year’s Christmas Market.

**Chorley Road land for sale**

We have been contacted by several members concerned about the sign on Chorley Road advertising land for sale.

The site, opposite Worthington Lakes, is the site of a former tip and the advertisement declares it a “development opportunity”. However, if you look at the prospectus, it states this is “long term”.

It is very long term. Currently, this site is in Green Belt and so is protected from development.

There are currently no plans to change any of the Green Belt areas around Standish. The only way this could be done in the short term is through the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and its draft proposals include keeping Standish’s Green Belt the same. If the GMSF is passed, this Green Belt designation will remain until at least 2037.

However, the GMSF draft plan can be changed, so we will be continuing to lobby against any change to Standish’s Green Belt through the forthcoming stages of its implementation.

The next round of consultation was expected to be launched this autumn, but new reports suggest it could be pushed back until summer 2020. We will keep you posted.

**The Beeches and Albert’s Standish**

Standish Voice has written to the owners of Albert’s Standish to thank them for the huge investment they have made in the village with the creation their new venue at The Beeches.

We have also expressed our gratitude that the original house was preserved and has been given such a sensitive makeover to preserve it for many more years as a landmark building in the village.

The building is not listed, so could quite easily have been sold to developers to demolish who could then use the site for more housing.

We know this because we were party to discussions on the future of The Beeches when it was up for sale and we told the council that it was an important building which the community wanted to retain and we would oppose its change of use to housing.

Thankfully, the new owners, Elle R Leisure, saw its potential, and that of the village, and bought the site for its new restaurant and assured us early on that they wanted to retain and refurbish the original building. That aspect of the redevelopment gets a big thumbs up from us.

Standish Voice wishes the venture well and hopes it will be as close to the hearts of the people of our village as was The Beeches in its heyday.

**Elderly people’s scheme at Chadwick’s**

Wigan Council’s planning councillors are expected to decide proposals for a retirement village in Standish next month.
August's planning committee is due to consider the plans for 92 apartments in the McCarthy and Stone application on the site of Chadwick’s.
The butchers and cafe, which closed earlier this month, would be knocked down and the whole site used for the older people's accommodation in the project.
Mixed views have been expressed on the scheme, first unveiled last December, and McCarthy and Stone have slightly changed the plans, but are adamant that the frontage of the Chadwick’s building will have to be demolished.
Standish Voice and Standish’s Conservative councillors objected to the historic elements of the current building being lost but the developer says it is not fit for purpose and adds in a report: “It is not viable in either practical or economic terms to retain the existing building.”
But Standish Voice, which backed the scheme in principle after it was clear Chadwick’s decided to sell the site for development, reiterates that this historic frontage to High Street should be retained.
You can look at the altered plans and give views on them ahead of it going to them going to the committee. See this link and go to the documents area: <https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PJ7XSIRRM5N00&activeTab=summary>

**Standish’s Christmas Tree has a new summer look**
Standish’s living Christmas Tree has been given a floral makeover.

When Standish Voice bought the railings for around the tree, we also arranged for hanging basket holders in the same style.
Cllr Ray Whittingham and Judith Atherton, both on Standish Christmas Decorations Committee, put them up with some lovely floral displays.
We think they are looking good!

**New venue for Standish Voice meetings?**

The monthly meetings of Standish Voice have been held at Standish High School for the past two years but we are hoping to move to a new venue from September.

Albert’s has kindly offered one of its meeting rooms for our meetings – usually held on the third Tuesday of each month – free of charge. This would save the Forum £500 a year on room hire.

There is traditionally no meeting of the Forum in August, so if we are successful in arranging this new venue, our first meeting will be at the School Lane building on September 17.

Standish Voice committee would like to wish our members a lovely summer and remind you that you can opt out of these newsletters by requesting this in a return email to us.

Best wishes, Standish Voice Committee