It is with great pleasure that Standish Voice can announce that Standish Neighbourhood Plan is going to a referendum on Thursday, July 18.

The plan has been reviewed for its legality by a Planning Examiner and Standish Voice and Wigan Council have agreed to modifications the Examiner has requested to ensure the document fully complies with planning law.

The Final Plan represents a real victory in giving Standish people influence in how further housing developments are agreed and a say in the creation of new infrastructure, which we need in the village due to the increasing population.

We are especially pleased that the main policies in the plan have been kept with only minor changes.

One of the Plan’s main policies of the plan is that no more planning permissions for homes on the greenfield ‘safeguarded’ land will be allowed until 1,148 of the homes already allowed are built and occupied. And even then this land should only be built on if developers can show “*that further housing development can be accommodated across the full range of transport, health, education, open space, community and utility infrastructure without detriment to the character and wellbeing of Standish as a viable sustainable place to live, work and visit”.*

The Plan also says that any new housing developments should take into consideration the village’s need for homes for elderly people and all new homes must be built within 400 metres of a bus stop. Also, all affordable homes required must be built in Standish and not in other parts of Wigan borough.

The Plan proposes four sites of Local Green Space, where development will not be allowed – effectively preserving them as green spaces for the public to enjoy for ever.

These are:

o   Victoria Pit reclamation site (7.2ha)

o   The ponds at Almond Brook extending into Robin Hill Lane and open space to the west of it (4.2ha)

o   The Rec on Southlands Avenue (0.8ha)

o   The playing field to the south west of Standish High School next to The Line (1.3ha)

Other policies include:

       making the village centre more attractive and vibrant

       putting a cap on the number of takeaways

       enhancing sporting and leisure facilities on The Rec and Ashfield Park

       protecting our historic pubs

       improving footpaths

       proposing the creation of a ‘Standish Loop’ bridlepath around the village

       backing the need for more car parking in the village centre

       creating two green corridors to protect and enhance plants and wildlife

       helping to retain the remaining part of Bradley Hall trading estate for employment

In her report, and after reviewing all the submissions during the many rounds of consultation which was carried out during the planning process, the Examiner states: “The Plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Forum, Standish Voice. They are to be congratulated on the work they have undertaken in consulting the community of this large area and drawing up a plan to address the issues that have been identified particularly to ensure that the village centre and community facilities are enhanced and improved to meet the needs of this growing population.

“The Plan also seeks to ensure that the housing needs of the population are addressed especially for the ageing population and that provision is made for affordable homes.”

Wigan Council will now run the referendum, with the same rules as local elections, and polling stations have been booked across Standish. Polling forms will go out to all those on the electoral roll soon.

The question on the polling form will be: ‘Do you want Wigan Council to use the Standish Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Standish Neighbourhood Area?’

We will be sending out more information on the plan and referendum over the coming weeks, but if you want to know more, please see the Neighbourhood Plan section of our website, [www.standishvoice.co.uk](http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/) or go to Wigan Council’s website on it at <https://wigan.gov.uk/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Planning/Neighbourhood-plan/Standish-plan.aspx>

There you can see all the documents about the plan, the Examiner’s report and the previous versions of the plan. The Final Plan will be uploaded by Wigan Council in the coming days after new maps have been added.

Standish Voice will be campaigning for a decisive ‘Yes’ vote to show developers and Wigan Council how strongly people feel about putting these policies into effect. Please help us do that.