Dear Standish Voice member,

We hope you had a lovely summer, here is the newsletter for September.

CHORLEY ROAD TIP SITE

A number of members have contacted us over summer about the activity on the former tip site on Chorley Road, opposite Worthington Lakes.

An advertisement sign went up earlier this year and we informed you that as the site is part of Green Belt, planning permission would not be achieved for development there. The Green Belt in Standish would have to change first and there are currently no plans to do this.

The draft proposals for the new Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) shows no change to Standish’s Green Belt – the fields that circle the built-up area of the village – and Standish Voice will continue to campaign that this is followed through to the GMSF’s final version and adoption.

If the Green Belt is retained in whole in Standish – and we expect this will happen – it means these areas, including the Chorley Road site, will remain free from development until at least 2037.

However, the landowner of this site is intent on using it in some way and a few weeks ago began to clear the land and fell trees there. Wigan Council put a temporary cessation order on any more felling until the remaining trees could be assessed for their value.

But many trees have been lost and the council has confirmed to us that it has reported the matter the Forestry Commission, which is investigating to see if the felling has breached rules.

The Commission is looking at whether a permit would have been needed for this number of trees which have been destroyed. It has ways to calculate if too much timber has been felled without a licence.
Felling trees without a licence, where one would have been required, is an offence, and a prosecution can be brought. One consequence of a successful prosecution is that trees would have to be replaced.

CHADWICK’S

The planning application for the Chadwick’s site on High Street has been passed by Wigan Council’s planning committee. The McCarthy and Stone scheme is for 92 apartments for elderly people.
The butcher's and cafe closed earlier this summer after the owners agreed a deal with the housing developer, which will see all the buildings demolished and the site – including the grassed area at the rear – built on.
Standish Voice was in general support of the scheme. We would have preferred more retail units on that land but the landowner wanted to sell it for housing and our independent Housing Needs Survey for Standish Neighbourhood Plan found a growing need for elderly accommodation in the village. We hope this development will allow older people to downsize and free up their homes for families.

The proposals had a mixed reaction from the community and Standish Voice raised objections to the scheme specifics in terms of the amount of car parking, aspects of the design and the loss of the historic frontage of the main Chadwick's building, which is around 200 years old.

It was disappointing to lose the historic frontage of the building but Wigan Council planning officers concluded in a report: “It is clear that the demolition of 51 High Street will represent a degree of harm to the significance of the Conservation Area as a designated heritage asset. However, in the context of the Conservation Area as a whole, whose character and significance arise from a wide range of other features, this harm is assessed as being less than substantial.”

We have contacted McCarthy and Stone to see what its timescale is for development and to ask if they would consider opening the Chadwick’s car park for public use ahead of work being started. We will keep you informed.

STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET

Preparations are going very well for Standish Christmas Market, which will be held in on Saturday, November 30.

There will be the usual indoor and outdoor stalls, attractions, entertainment, the beer tent, Santa’s Grotto in the library, Christmas karaoke returns at the Unity Club and the Christmas tree lights will be lit up in the evening. The Mayor of Wigan will open the event.

The event could not take place without our sponsors and some Standish companies have been very generous. Our councillors, Adam Marsh, Ray Whittingham and Debbie Parkinson have agreed to give some Brighter Borough money to the event.

It also would not go ahead without our wonderful volunteers who help out on the day (and even the day before and after) – we had 70 last year!

For some of them it is their fourth year and all say what a great experience it is helping out.

You can volunteer for as much or as little time as you want to – every bit helps.

If you want to volunteer this year, please email standishvoicevolunteers@gmail.com and we will get back to you in due course.

WE LOVE OUR TOWN

Wigan Council has a new campaign with the title We Love Our Town which aims to instil pride in the borough and its individual communities.

It has produced a video which features St Wilfrid’s Church – the only Grade 1-listed building in the borough – in the opening frames. It’s worth a look.

The council will be announcing some money for Standish along with other centres for projects which came out of The Big Listening Survey it conducted.

For more information on the campaign – see <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/The-Deal/Deal-Communities/Our-Town/Index.aspx>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bE7EbASVIR4>

POLICING

Standish Voice met with a representative of the local police alongside Coun Debbie Parkinson to discuss policing in Standish.

The police have regular meetings with Standish Voice and Coun Parkinson as we run the Standish Voice and Standish Community Watch Facebook pages.

Standish Voice forwards any news we receive on crime to Standish Community Watch for publication on that page, something the police recommended.

Thankfully, Standish continues to be an area with a very low level of crime compared with the rest of Wigan and Greater Manchester.

Inconsiderate parking and speeding was the main area of discussion.

MYLES STANDISH CELEBRATION

Standish Voice will be taking part in a planting ceremony organised by the Friends of Standish Library (FoSL) at the library on Saturday.

FoSL is bringing the whole community together to celebrate an icon of the village's history.
Myles Standish was the military captain of the Mayflower which set sail for America 399 years ago this month. Next year sees the 400th anniversary of the journey of the ship that took pilgrims to the New World – who were to become the Pilgrim Fathers of America.
Historians believe Myles was a member of the wider Standish family, which had their home at Standish Hall, where Standish Hall Farm is now.
They believe Myles was most likely born and raised at Duxbury Hall, in south Chorley, which at that time was part of Standish Parish area. If so, he would have worshipped at St Wilfrid's Church and would have regarded Standish as his home village.
Standish has long celebrated its links with Myles with the Mayflower name and symbol popping up across the village for generations.
Standish Library is continuing to celebrate this link with Myles with a special planting ceremony on the library lawn on Saturday (October 5) when community groups and schools across Standish will gather to plant flowers which will grow into a floral Mayflower border display ready for the 400th anniversary.
Wigan's Mayor and MP will join in and the public is welcome to watch the event from 10.30am.

NEW MEETING VENUE

Standish Voice has a new venue for its meetings.

We now meet at Albert’s after the restaurant and bar offered us a room free of charge and we would like to thank them for this.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month – unless stated on our website – at 7.45pm. The public as well as our members are welcome to attend.