**Here is the newsletter for March…**

**STANDISH CORONAVIRUS HELP**

Standish Voice and Standish’s councillors have come together to help our vulnerable elderly people affected by Coronavirus. We need your help!

The Government has said that, in the coming weeks, people over the age of 70 and those in at-risk groups will be asked to stay at home to limit their risk of contracting Coronavirus. The length of time they may have to stay in their homes could be up to four months.

Some elderly and at-risk people in Standish may not be able to rely on family, friends or neighbours to help in this situation, by doing shopping, delivering medicine or supporting them with conversations on social media, on the phone or by email. These elderly or at-risk people may feel isolated and worried.

Other older people in self-isolation may have short-term problems due to helpers being ill themselves or having to self-isolate temporarily.

Standish Voice and Councillors Debbie Parkinson, Adam Marsh and Ray Whittingham are creating a network of support for these vulnerable elderly people and others at risk in our community; so that they have someone to turn to if they need help.

We will buy essential items that they may need if stocks run short in shops and they are unable to find them elsewhere, or are unable to travel to buy them. We will create packs of essentials that we can distribute to them.

How you can help:  
1. We have set up a Crowdfunder account to pay for these essential items – please give a little money to this co-ordinated, voluntary initiative. To donate, click the link below or go to: [https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/standish-coronavirus-help…](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.crowdfunder.co.uk%2Fstandish-coronavirus-help%3Ftk%3D8347909fd533f0bd594e27065c29f32a83ec4f58%26fbclid%3DIwAR158Qn3fmcs45gqtDe3yS_pN1Y1xjfyAj5UkyAYCk3mtgHaImS1VUmLP8E&h=AT3hSqD3gbz42EiMf3D5BSC2GtXPuB9ZSl11YpzEGw2B-9Qr8-NiP_nxUStCbUqN6W4aMbV4FcLv7RSZo3GA9xAJdP8BQGpaZRhQ54qh3lpRyYNUkwfVml_9gLo9GOTKJnyk4d_otoLVqtFqWBB7T4wAupBvwqGmk11j3wFx4dL8Q_caUE-f9WUstakwpZLB5fMmcIPzlS-NjwM4kxBktdyVN3Te_Q-i-yx5SaCTbvF_CLvKDuPQxTY5cV6u36mGsAKB_Y_eLDJ7z80WjCBByHwMBMbL_t1mXcSRxDl7LK9aURf7NITuv088oIFS5q3kIpUaiA4jH1zriYpICxFqGTFuTWtBd3KfcwRyqkk8Ja4fi-GmLT0zPJe_6qQK9QiHmotZHQofUxH6UMo-sa3n9llv0sBAUKO5LnUUuecV4iEbAgTBEm2ULIu74PkRc9x-gmzTfE8Jsg-FJjMlXikZXNmD-JY8O-CrcQ7SrpLwjxrcUxVBd920edGnxm0ec7c7TgUyKKZIVxiay7OcDMdU5TU0TXdRbcs84YXxWWQoVRR9VX5AUKef0B5QEsMa7wr5UdeEpNHkXV3We28lYItNI9Z1wC6JRyLA8fSGkkInaoAXJb3uv_CAtstvUZxs1SYWvF7q8yg6)

2. Tell us of elderly people who may need help in this way. Please send their names and contact details of these people – or just tell us an address if you do not know them – to one of the three secure email addresses of our councillors:  
debbie.parkinson1@wigan.gov.uk  
a.marsh@wigan.gov.uk  
raymond.whittingham@wigan.gov.uk

3. If you are an elderly person and are worried you may not be able to cope if you have to self-isolate at home, please email one of the addresses above. We will not cold call.

4. Can you volunteer to help us? We will be co-ordinating help and support with volunteers either dropping off essential items, doing shopping for our elderly or contacting them on the phone or by email just for a chat and to offer support. If you can volunteer, either a little or a lot, email one of the addresses above and tell us what you can do.

We will also be talking to community and faith groups across Standish to see if they know of people who will need help in this way. No names or details of the elderly people we help will be shared publicly, so please do not add this type of detail in social media comments. Just email one of the addresses above.

This initiative is not designed to replace help that family, friends and neighbours can give, but to ensure isolated older people are not forgotten. We can also alert the authorities to people in need of specialised help.

We have also set up a 24-hour helpline with the help of SMARTstrat of Standish. The number is 01257 228488. Please use it if you need urgent help from our volunteers or cannot email one of the councillor email addresses in the leaflet.

You can click on the image above, save it and and print it out at home for neighbours you are concerned about.

We now have 15,000 of these leaflets and 100 posters. They will be going out into the community from tomorrow. We will be asking our new Coronavirus volunteers to help distribute them.

**Standish Christmas Market**

**We have announced that this year’s Standish Christmas Market will take place on Saturday, December 5th.**

**The Christmas Market’s Committee has been discussing arrangements and are planning an event similar to the last four successful years, with stalls, attractions and entertainment.**

**We believe it is important to try to ensure the Market still goes ahead this year, despite the Coronavirus outbreak. However, we will be closely monitoring the situation and will follow health advice at all times, with public safety being the most important matter in deciding any changes.**

**We have enough funds to put on the event even if we do not achieve our usual level of grants and sponsorship due to good financial management over the past four years of the event.**

**So, for now it is on – we think it is something we can all look forward to.**

**Meetings**

Following Government advice, Standish Voice has suspended its public meetings until further notice.

We thank Albert’s for providing us a venue for our meetings free of charge.

We will inform our members when our public meetings are due to resume.

**Redesignation**

**The consultation on our redesignation as a Neighbourhood Forum has closed – thank you to everyone who took the time to email their submission.**

**Our designation as a Forum runs out in May but we are confident the council will allow us to carry on in the same capacity – as a statutory body so that we have greater influence in how we operate.**

**We shall inform you of the next stage in this process.**

**Almond Brook Road**

Standish Voice objected to a planning application to create a gravel road in the Green Belt. This plan has now been refused.

An application has been submitted to make a road into an overgrown area, which was formerly the site of St Marie’s School.  
The land is in Green Belt, so no development of it, housing or otherwise, is allowed.  
The site has been fenced off for many years but the owner, who lives in St Helens, now wants to create a gravel roadway into the site, which the application says is needed so it can be maintained properly.

We have objected to the application on the grounds that it is unnecessary as the area has been maintained for several decades without the need for a road and is an unwanted development in the Green Belt.

We have also said the entrances could be dangerous on a stretch of road that now has numerous junctions off it and we also objected to the felling of a tree as part of the plans.

Below, you can see a photo of the area and the plan of the proposed access road.