

STANDISH VOICE JULY NEWSLETTER

Standish Voice and our village councillors are continuing to run Standish Coronavirus Help, co-ordinating the work of our very dedicated and selfless volunteers who are looking after people who feel unsafe in visiting public places.

And despite the easing of the lockdown and the Government ending help for those shielding, Standish Coronavirus Help will continue to support these people as long as they wish.

Many of the schemes for those shielding from COVID-19 come to an end at the beginning of August but Standish Coronavirus Help is telling all those who still need our support that we will continue to give it as long as it is needed.

We would like to thank again all our wonderful volunteers who have helped with this initiative. We have had some really heart-warming feedback from them and the people they are looking after about the scheme.

Many of the people being helped and the volunteers have become friends and have pledged to keep in touch when the pandemic is over.

We do have some volunteers who have not yet been called upon, but we still need them to be available in case current volunteers cannot carry on for various reasons.

Standish Voice Treasurer Karen Bliss has processed hundreds of payments for shopping, which ensures people get the vital supplies they need but no money passes between the volunteer and the household which is isolating – to keep everyone safe.

A big round of applause for Karen and also Councillor Adam Marsh, who has been the liaison between Wigan Council and the scheme, ensuring everything we do is co-ordinated with their COVID-19 response.

And we would like to thank Standish call handling company SMARTstrat, which continues to run our helpline 24 hours a day, seven days a week – and has been doing for more than four months. Great work!

Standish Coronavirus Help gave a bunch of tulips to each of the 60 or so self-isolating households we are looking after.

We are grateful to Kerry at Wild Flowers and Kath at Garlands, two Standish florists, for organising the flowers at a huge discount and making them into lovely, colourful bouquets paid for by our Coronavirus crowdfunder.

Lots of our self-isolating residents told our volunteer deliverers how it cheered up their day.

Thanks to everyone involved!

Standish Voice is objecting to new details in planning application that was passed three years ago for homes on Rectory Lane.

Developers HIMOR won planning permission in 2017 on appeal for the land between the existing new estate and the railway line on Rectory Lane, after Wigan Council refused it.

After winning the appeal at a public inquiry, they had three years to put in detailed plans for the scheme or the permission to build would lapse.

The new detailed scheme of 116 homes includes 29 'affordable' ones and the retention of two existing ponds. Access would be through the existing Barrowcroft Green estate as decided in the 2017 application.

The scheme – which the application suggests will be built by Wainhomes – shows a mix of semi-detached and detached houses and apartments.

You can see a plan of the proposed estate here and you can view the documents through this link: <https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QCC2ACRRJ1F00&activeTab=summary>. To object to the scheme, email: planning@wigan.gov.uk

The Wigan Observer has written an article about the application and Standish Voice gave this statement: "We are studying the details of the planning application to ensure it complies with the outline permission which was, unfortunately, allowed by the planning inspector despite local opposition and initial refusal by Wigan Council.

"Since this outline permission was passed, a number of homes have been built and occupied by families next to this site who are, quite rightly, concerned about the traffic, disruption, road safety problems, and noise that this development will no doubt create, especially in the construction stage.

"We hope that, if this new plan is approved, Wigan Council will impose stringent rules on the developer to make sure the lives of current residents are disrupted as little as possible during construction.

"We will be submitting our views on this new application and feel it is also important to ensure the maximum amount of biodiversity is retained in the scheme as it is yet another greenfield site in Standish which will be sadly lost to development."

You can read the news story about this here:

<https://www.wigantoday.net/news/politics/council/details-controversial-wigan-homes-plan-lodged-2922479>

This is one of the first pints pulled at The Crown in Standish, which has reopened after more than four years.

The pub, on Platt Lane, in Worthington, has had a huge refurbishment and reopened earlier this month.

We want to thank new landlords Andrew and Nicola McKenna and owner Simon Jones for their vision and belief that this building – which has been a pub for at least 160 years – could be a great hospitality venue again for the village.

We also want to give a huge round of applause to the Save The Crown campaign, which quickly mobilised after the pub shut suddenly in January, 2016, and a planning application was lodged to knock it down and build houses on the plot.

The leaders of it – Jim McKenna (no relation), Heidi Swift, Brian Steer and Carl Davies – never gave up on saving the pub and passionately believed the historic building had a huge future. Standish Voice gave them support and help along the way but they campaigned tirelessly to both galvanise the community and work behind the scenes to ensure The Crown had a new lease of life. Despite all the naysayers, community action, belief and hard work really can pay dividends.

Cheers to The Crown!

A planning application has been lodged for four social housing flats on Almond Brook Road.

Wigan Council wants to build the flats on open land near St Stephen's Road, the site of a now-demolished house.

Part of the money for the project comes from financial contributions from private housing developers which need to pay towards 'affordable' housing in the village.

Wigan Council has previously lodged a plan for eight social housing flats on Longridge Avenue.

All homes would be for social rent, either through the council or a housing association.

The council carried out consultation on both schemes with a drop-in session at Standish Community Centre in March.

Standish Voice is studying the new planning application but we have previously supported the scheme in principle as it provides social housing for rent for people, including the elderly or the disabled, who may not be able to afford market house prices in Standish.

To read more about the application, see this link: <https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=externalDocuments&keyVal=QDM4H3RRJN500>

The plans are shown below.

Standish residents will get a say on the future of their Green Belt land later this year.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework – which has been three years in its inception – is coming to a conclusion with a final round of public consultation set for November.

In the previous two draft versions of the Framework – a regional plan for development until 2037 – there has been no change to our Green Belt. No development is allowed by law on Green Belt, which includes the fields that ring Standish village.

However, these have just been in the draft stages and landowners and developers – many of whom want more building in Standish – are still trying to change the Framework to allow it on a number of sites across the village.

The housing being built now in Standish was on ‘safeguarded’ land – not Green Belt.

The Final version of the plan – which includes development on Green Belt in other parts of Wigan – will be published in September, when Wigan councillors will give their views.

Standish Voice has been lobbying for a number of years to keep Standish’s Green Belt intact as we believe there has been far too much housing allowed here in recent years.

Also, the Framework has previously stated that fracking will not be allowed in Greater Manchester (Standish land has outline licences held by fracking companies). The Government has declared a moratorium on the process but fracking companies are lobbying to end this.

To read more about the GMSF, click below...

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/GMSF>

Have you Liked our Support Standish Facebook page yet?

We need to support all our village businesses at this tough time and Support Standish gives them free publicity and advertising.

The page is linked to the website www.supportstandish.co.uk which has more than 100 local businesses signed up to it. The free website has been set up in conjunction with local marketing and design agency Nettl.

Go to the Facebook page by clicking [here](#)?