

## **STANDISH VOICE APRIL NEWSLETTER**

### **STANDISH CORONAVIRUS HELP**

Last month, Standish Voice and our three Standish councillors – Adam Marsh, Debbie Parkinson and Ray Whittingham – created Standish Coronavirus Help (SCH), to ensure those who are self-isolating in the village but had no-one nearby to help them cope, would be supported throughout their lockdown.

SCH was launched on the day after those over 70 and with certain medical conditions were told to stay in their homes for 12 weeks and eight days before the general lockdown was announced by the government.

During that week we launched a crowdfunder appeal, created an emergency 24-hour telephone line – which is staffed by Standish company SMARTstrat – and produced 15,000 leaflets giving details of the scheme. We were able to get 2,000 of the leaflets into book bags of schoolchildren before the schools closed on the Friday of that week.

The leaflets went out to every household in the village and we have around 6,500 leaflets left for another drop in the coming weeks.

If you have not had a leaflet or are concerned that a neighbour who needs one has discarded it, please download the leaflet image here, print it off and give it to them – or post the telephone number and ask them to call.

The appeal raised £2,600 – which Wigan Council has pledged to add to with a further £1,000 – and we would like to thank everyone who contributed. We do not know how long this situation will go on for, so we plan to use this money judiciously over the long term to support the people who have come forward for our help.

Our call for volunteers brought a tremendous response. We have 150 volunteers (or Street Heroes as we are calling them), set up in a network around Standish, with the responsibility to look after certain streets and the people who need help who live in them.

We have around 70 households who have contacted us needing help now or in the future and our Street Heroes are doing shopping, picking up medicine or

chatting to them on the phone. We want to thank all of them for their selfless work in helping others in the community.

If you have signed up to be a volunteer and have not heard from us, it is because, thankfully, we have more volunteers at the moment than those needing help – our ‘clients’. But that may change, so thanks for being there if things do.

Part of the appeal money has been spent on ‘essentials packs’ a gesture from the community to all those who have asked for support. The packs (pictured) contain non-perishable food and hygiene products, which may be useful. We want to thank Aldi for selling us the goods from their regional depot and to Wigan Council for transporting and storing them. The packs will be distributed over the coming days.

If you know anyone else in your area who may need our help, please email [a.marsh@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:a.marsh@wigan.gov.uk) and give us the details. We will check the information out and assign support where needed.

## **SUPPORT STANDISH**

**We all want to support our independent Standish businesses at this time – and many are now delivering goods, going online or doing other things to continue trading through lockdown.**

**So, Standish Voice has teamed up with Wigan marketing and design agency Nettle to create a free website for businesses and residents of Standish which will give everyone information on how to use them during this tough time.**

**It is called [SupportStandish.co.uk](http://SupportStandish.co.uk) and since its launch earlier this month, more than 40 business have signed up**

**Does your business now deliver? Tell us. Started selling services from home? Give us the info. Looking for someone to drop off food or other goods to you? Have a look at the website. Want to buy gift vouchers from a closed business? It could be on Support Standish.**

**We want businesses to give us their details and Standish people to take a look at the site first before buying things to see if they can be bought locally and so support our hard-hit village businesses.**

**We will include businesses from surrounding areas, within reason, so please**

**use the site and send us your details.**

**We also know that charities are having a tough time at the moment, so we have dedicated a part of the site for people to donate to Standish's biggest charity, My Life.**

**It does wonderful work at Thompson House Equestrian Centre, on Pepper Lane, so we are asking people to donate a little money saved from the cash they would usually have spent on their normal daily commute, via a link on the website, to My Life.**

**Nettl owner, Standish businessman Paul Frazer, also the owner of Heron Marketing Services Ltd., has designed the site and we are sure you will agree it is very user-friendly.**

**It is totally free of charge for everyone, so please build up the website and use it – we are all in this together!**

**See it here: [www.supportstandish.co.uk](http://www.supportstandish.co.uk)**

## **REDESIGNATION**

We want to thank everyone who took the time to give their submission to Wigan Council about our intention to carry on as the Neighbourhood Forum for Standish.

Standish Voice has been the designated Neighbourhood Forum for five years, but this runs out next month and we applied for this to be renewed.

Wigan Council carried out a consultation on this and 160 people took part, giving their views.

We are pleased to say that Wigan Council has informed us the submissions gave unanimous support to Standish Voice to carry on as a Forum.

The council will decide on this matter in the coming weeks and we will inform you of the outcome.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**A Standish equestrian centre could have some buildings demolished to make way for three new houses.**

**A planning application has been submitted by Seven Stars Equestrian Centre for the new four-bed detached housing in the place of stable buildings, which would be knocked down.**

**The centre, on Preston Road, opposite the Olive Garden restaurant, is in Standish's Green Belt.**

**Standish Voice has objected to the plans as we believe it is inappropriate to remove agricultural buildings in the Green Belt for housing. We have adequate housing in Standish with many hundreds of homes yet to be built. In a submission to the planning department, Standish Voice has said that if the plan is granted, there should be provision for elderly or affordable housing in the scheme in some form.**

**More details of the plan are in this Wigan Observer news article.**

**Also, a new restaurant and coffee shop is being planned for Standish.**

**The Solange sunbed shop would be transformed into the new venue, according to a planning application.**

**The building, at the corner of Market Street and Pole Street, which was once Frank Booth's store, would have a refurbishment into a restaurant with a function room, and the possibility of takeaway.**

**The revamp plans show bifold doors opening to an outside seating area and a private car park.**

**There is no indication in it of what kind of food would be served if the planning application is passed but Standish Voice has been reassured by the potential owners that it will be predominantly run as a restaurant rather than a takeaway. There is a policy in Standish Neighbourhood Plan, passed last summer, to limit any new takeaway-only premises in the village centre.**

## **FACEBOOK**

**Standish Voice's Facebook page now has more than 8,800 followers. If you are not on Facebook, the Coronavirus pandemic is a good reason to start to use it.**

It can keep you up to date with local news and information as well as making it easier to keep in touch with family and friends, especially if you have to isolate yourself at home.

Here is a step-by-step guide to signing up to Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/help/188157731232424?helpref=topq>

When you are signed up, link with family and friends and pages which are important for information, including the NHS, Government, Wigan Council and Standish Voice.

You can send Standish Voice messages via Messenger on Facebook. You can always email us too, and we will try to help.

If you are on Facebook, make sure you have Liked or Followed our Facebook page. If you do it will be easier to see our Standish posts in your timeline.

## **ROTARY**

**Standish Voice has teamed up with Wigan Rotary Club to promote their service to help people become more confident using the internet.**

**In this current crisis, it is a great help to be on social media, email, internet banking and being able to order shopping online. Accessing help and information is also much easier if you are linked to the web and have the know-how to use it.**

**But there are some people who have not done this before and will need help to learn.**

**Wigan Rotary Club has a number of volunteers who can guide people in the use of the internet and social media.**

**They have a team that can try to help people through the process of setting up email, accounts and other tools.**

**If you want to arrange a call from them, ring the Wigan Rotary helpline on 07813 471000.**

**Be careful about scams - no-one will contact them without contacting the Rotary Club first.**