

Dear Standish Voice member,  
here is the newsletter for September

## **STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET**

It is with disappointment and sadness that we have to announce the cancellation of this year's Standish Christmas Market.

It has been apparent for a number of months that the Market could not be operated in a COVID-secure way and we could not guarantee the health and safety of visitors and the many volunteers who help us to stage the event, which attracts around 5,000 people.

If you have enjoyed the Market in the past, you will know it would be impossible to ensure the social distancing needed to secure the necessary permissions from Wigan Council to stage the event. This is coupled with the general view that a second wave of Coronavirus is more likely in the winter months.

Also, the Market, which has been running since 2015, costs Standish Voice thousands of pounds to stage. Spending money on this year's event for it to be cancelled at the last

minute due to another local lockdown would put our finances in jeopardy, risking future events.

So it is with a heavy heart that our Christmas Market Committee has decided that the Market on December 5th cannot go ahead.

We want to thank all our volunteers who have helped us stage the Market over the past few years, the businesses, our sponsors and everyone who has worked, performed, or hosted stalls, and especially the Christmas Market Committee which organises it.

Standish Christmas Market will return for an even more joyous celebration in December 2021!





## **STANDISH VOICE MEETINGS**

**Due to the restrictions because of Coronavirus, our monthly public meetings continue to be suspended.**

**However, our committee is still meeting through video calls, discussing planning and other village issues.**

**The committee has been in talks with Wigan Council over infrastructure improvements in Standish, with money allocated to the local authority by the developers currently building homes.**

**We are confident a large number of projects right across the village will be forthcoming from these discussions, which have also involved Standish councillors.**

**Any proposals will be put out for consultation to Standish residents in an engagement campaign organised by Wigan Council, ahead of a decision by them on the schemes.**



**Standish Voice Chair Gill Foster and Vice Chair Paul Ogden have also continued their regular meetings, via video link, with the leader of Wigan Council, Alison McKenzie-Folan, and Head of Transformation Sonia Halliwell to discuss various issues, including the Standish Coronavirus Help initiative, the Christmas Market and the infrastructure investment decision-making process.**

## VILLAGE CENTRE IS THRIVING

Since lockdown, Standish village centre seems to have defied the national trend for a downturn in retail and hospitality.

A number of new businesses have opened in the village since lockdown eased, most probably due to a combination of factors, including people wanting to spend more time in their own community and the number of new people moving into the village due to the growth in housebuilding.

Over the past few months, ventures including three new barber shops, a cafe, a bar, a pub (The Crown at Worthington) and a new butcher's and estate agent have opened their doors, with another butcher opening on Preston Road this Thursday morning.

Other retail outlets are also hoping to move into premises in the village centre.

A planning application has also been submitted to make improvements to the facade of The Standish Centre, on Cross Street.

Standish Voice has the ambition to help traders set up an organisation with our councillors to give a strong voice to the business community in the village.

Our Support Standish Facebook page and website is available for businesses to advertise themselves free of charge. Please use it.



## **STORING UP SUPPORT**

**We would like to thank Standish Self-storage for their continued support of Standish Voice.**

**The Bradley Lane company has agreed to store all the materials for Standish Christmas Market free of charge at their Douglas Mill warehouse.**

**It really is a big help to our finances, especially in the light of the Market's unfortunate cancellation.**

**Thanks very much!**



## **STANDISH CORONAVIRUS HELP**

**The initiative to support all those people across the village who have been self-isolating and shielding is continuing.**

**A number of our volunteers have been stood down due to some of those we are helping deciding to venture out of their homes to do essential shopping themselves.**

**We would like to thank all our volunteers, our local councillors, Adam Marsh, Debbie Parkinson and Ray Whittingham, who we have been working closely with on this initiative, and SMARTstrat of Standish, the call centre which has manned our emergency telephone number.**

**We will be retaining the volunteer network so we can quickly re-implement the project if further lockdowns come into force.**

**If you still require help, please contact us via the emails or telephone number on the leaflet below.**