

You can read a digital version of this newsletter by following this link:
<https://mailchi.mp/9cdf7a2c79df/standish-voice-april-newsletter>

We hope all our members are having very Happy Easter.

Standish Voice has joined with the three Standish village councillors to oppose Wigan Council's proposal to widen School Lane.

The scheme, which would cost up to £1.6m, has been put forward as part of a number of infrastructure projects for money given to the local authority by the developers who are involved in the huge housebuilding programme across Standish.

The council says the scheme, which would see an extra lane for traffic doing towards the crossroad lights from Green Lane down to Quakers Place, will speed up traffic going through the crossroads. But we think this will have a minimal effect and be hugely outweighed by negative impacts.

Please join the campaign by signing the petition against it.

You can sign it by clicking here, but you must register with the council.

https://democracy.wigan.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=34&RPID=15355421&HPID=15355421&a=1&fbclid=IwAR3hS-ve-IPb3U6WjZl8H6ynP_S3zmz6dF1H-wIEoX6CWp0Q9iyE7Q-Y46A

A number of Standish shops and businesses also have printed copies which you can sign.

We are against the road widening scheme, which is pictured in a council plan here, because it:

- Will increase the amount of traffic using Standish as a cut through to other areas, including Wigan and the M61
- Will bring more housebuilding development to Standish due to an increase in capacity at the crossroads
- Removes green areas and trees and has a hugely detrimental impact on residents living on the road
- Worsens emissions in the centre of Standish where the problem of exhaust pollution is over the legal limit and one of the worst in the borough
- Increases health and safety dangers to pedestrians, including children walking to school
- Ruins the character of Standish at that entrance to the village
- Will only have minimal impact on congestion for a large amount of money (up to £1.6m), which could be better spent on other projects in Standish
- Reduces parking provision by taking away spaces
- Will hinder the progress of emergency vehicles when there are three lanes of

standing traffic

- Perpetuates the image of Standish as a congested village centre, which damages trade and its reputation as a good place to live in

We will be building the campaign over the coming weeks to try to persuade the council that the money which would be spent on it should be used to improve the centre of Standish to make it a more pleasant place to shop and work in, including better pavements, street furniture and other enhancements to the Conservation Area.

We have seen unprecedented opposition to the scheme and expect this to be reflected in the council's recent, flawed consultation scheme (see below), which it was part of.

You can read a press article about it, including a statement from Standish Voice, by clicking here:

https://www.wigantoday.net/news/politics/council/petition-launched-opposing-standish-road-widening-scheme-3175301?fbclid=IwAR36N09TkMoph6JDMu0uy9Q-JYyBbCvHaN1PhfgXSqaHS_Q2JF6eUQ0tkxA

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Thank-you to everyone who took part in Wigan Council's consultation on how developer money (called 106 funding) should be spent in Standish.

Wigan Council carried out the consultation on their proposed schemes, including widening School Lane to create a third lane of traffic, improvements to the village centre, enhancement of playing spaces, better footpaths and cycleways, a new village centre car park off Quakers Place and other improvements.

The council has said it will come back with the answers soon, but due to the laws on Purdah it will most likely be after the local elections on May 6.

You can read our response to the consultation by clicking here:

<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SV-response-to-WMBC-on-sec-106-schemes-17032021-rev1.pdf>

Standish Voice is angry and disappointed at the wording of the consultation, the final version of which we were not able to comment on ahead of its launch. The council has apologised to us for this, but we believe the questions were heavily skewed towards its own favoured schemes, including the widening of School Lane.

You can still read the consultation document here:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/Consultations/Current/Standish-Golborne-Lowton-investment.aspx>

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A planning application for homes in Standish has finally been decided after years of objections.

The 119 homes will be an extension to the Barrowcroft estate, opposite The Owls.

A planning inspector allowed the homes in outline in 2017 but now the detailed plans have also been passed.

Standish Voice chair Gill Foster objected to the homes during the planning inquiry – but the planning inspector overturned the council’s refusal of the scheme.

The vast bulk of the housing now being built across Standish was agreed between 2014 and 2017 after which Standish Voice decided to create a Neighbourhood Plan due to the ineffectiveness of the Standish Independent councillors at the time – Gareth Fairhurst, Debbie Fairhurst and George Fairhurst, who failed to stop the deluge of homes swamping the village.

Current councillors Adam Marsh, Ray Whittingham and Debbie Parkinson have helped Standish Voice to create a detailed Neighbourhood Plan which is preventing new homes being built on greenfield ‘safeguarded’ land.

But the Neighbourhood Plan cannot stop the housing which was passed several years ago.

If the Fairhurst councillors had a created Neighbourhood Plan when they were first able to, the huge housebuilding programme may have been stopped.

You can read a press article about the latest plan here:

https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/standish-rectory-farm-development-appeal-20243664?fbclid=IwAR2qbv_m2A4G21NDikjNBM0Uo_-6faKaI5dabtD97kIQqRWCOugU9KIXHCo

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Bradley Lane industrial estate in Standish is being put up for sale.

Owners HIMOR have appointed a sales agent to market the trading estate.

Businesses who operate from there have been told their leases will continue – but Standish Voice wants reassurances that the estate will remain as a going concern and will not be sold for housing.

We need the local jobs which the trading estate supports.

In 2015, planning permission was gained to demolish one half of the estate for housebuilding.

A number of plans have been passed for that site and another updated one is expected soon.

However, the remaining trading estate has been designated as an Employment Area and housing cannot go there unless the site is unviable – which we believe it is certainly not.

The planning regulations for the site, adopted by Wigan Council via Standish Neighbourhood Plan, state:

VE6: Proposals that would result in the loss of business space to a non-employment use in an Employment Area will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that:

The site is not viable due to the absence of market demand determined after active and continued marketing for a period of at least 12 months or such other period agreed with Wigan Council in accordance with the guidance in the Wigan Supplementary Planning Document on the Re-use of Employment Land and Buildings for Non-Employment Uses or

ii) The provision is of better quality business space allowing for mixed use or

iii) It is necessary to meet a clear need for community facilities or

iv) It would be unsuitable to continue as business use due to environmental considerations

A spokesman for Standish Voice said: “HIMOR has told leaseholders that their agreement is unaffected, and it is business as usual. But HIMOR’s past record shows they are only interested in maximising profit – after clearing businesses from the other half of the site and selling it for housing.

“We cannot let that happen to the remaining half.

“Standish needs local jobs – not more housing.”

You can read a press article about this, including a response from the council confirming the estate is protected by Standish Neighbourhood Plan, here:

<https://www.wigantoday.net/news/uk-news/assurances-demanded-as-wigan-industrial-site-up-for-sale-3184935>

Volunteers are creating a wildflower garden near St Marie’s Church.

The spare land on Almond Brook Road has been taken over by the volunteers and Standish councillor Debbie Parkinson has given Brighter Borough funding to the group – via Standish Voice’s bank account.

Well done, to everyone, we are sure it will be a stunning addition to the village.

To see a news story on this, click here:

<https://www.wigantoday.net/news/people/wigan-community-digs-in-to-tidy-spare-land-3185388>

Despite lockdown easing, Standish Coronavirus Help is still operating. Thanks to our volunteers and organisers. We are ready to ramp up the scheme again if the pandemic worsens again. For information on this, see the home page of our website.