

# Standish Voice Newsletter – October 2021

**You can read this newsletter digitally via this link:**

**<https://mailchi.mp/fb878f8bf6b5/standish-voice-october-newsletter>**

Standish Voice is urging Wigan Council to conduct more traffic modelling ahead of a controversial road widening scheme once a new through road opens in the village.

Standish Voice, the village's councillors and most people who responded to a council survey are opposed to widening School Lane into three lanes of traffic and the forum says a new through road opening in the village must be factored in before the scheme is taken forward by the council.

In 2014, a protest group campaigned against Almond Brook Link Road, running from Almond Brook Road to Pepper Lane, which Wigan Council said would ease traffic congestion at the village's crossroads.

Council planners approved the through road, which opened fields for the building of 600 homes in the north of the village, with Bloor Homes and Wainhomes now having completed most of the developments.

The through road linking the two estates is set to join up soon and Standish Voice is calling for more traffic modelling when the through route opens.

A Standish Voice spokesperson said: "The local authority insisted on this through road when many residents were against it. The council claimed that the road would ease congestion, including at Standish crossroads. They presented modelling to show this before the planning applications were passed. This new road is now ready to open.

"With the widening of School Lane such a controversial proposal – which we believe will be a waste of £1.6m, attract more through traffic into Standish, impact road safety, heighten pollution and open up more of our green fields to

development – we believe further modelling needs to be done when this new through road opens and before any decision to allow it is made.

“This widening proposal should be scrapped but if the council insists on it there needs to be a very clear, long-term and sustainable benefit shown for the scheme before the council agrees to all the disruption and the destruction of one of the main entrances to the village centre and its conservation area.

“If the through road does reduce congestion at Standish crossroads – like the council repeatedly said it would – it needs to be properly modelled and factored into any decision on the widening scheme.”

In another development, Wigan Council has given assurances to Standish Voice that no decision has yet been made on the road widening proposal.

The council has said it will listen to the views in the consultation and that all proposals for developer funded projects need to go through a process – and no decisions have yet been made.

Wigan Council made this statement:

“Aidan Thatcher, assistant director for growth and housing, said: ‘I’d like to thank everyone in Standish for their cooperation and patience while our teams analysed the terrific number of responses we received as part of the engagement exercise earlier this year.

‘We’d like to be clear that absolutely no decisions have yet been made about how and where this money will be spent. The outcomes of the survey will now go through the council’s formal processes and we’re working closely with Standish Voice and Standish councillors to ensure openness and transparency.

‘Choices will be made based on which schemes will lead to the best mitigation of housebuilding impact, while also considering the important comments from the community that were put forward.

‘Design and costs will also need to be finalised, meaning there will be further public consultations at a later date.

‘We share Standish Voice’s commitment to ensuring any schemes brought forward cater to local need. We’re grateful to them for their input so far, the

real interest from the local community and look forward to nurturing these relationships moving forward.'

This statement has been endorsed on behalf of politicians at the council by Councillor Chris Ready, responsible for Communities and Housing and a member of Wigan Council's Cabinet, which will ultimately make the decision on the scheme.

Standish Voice thanks Wigan Council for the statement, looks forward to working with it on all the projects for 106 funding, and urges it not to spend any more money on a proposal that is vehemently opposed in the village.

### **Places for Everyone**

We would like to thank everyone who submitted their views to Places For Everyone, the draft planning document for Greater Manchester.

The plan decides a framework of development for the city region for until 2037, including the Green Belt for Standish.

Developers and landowners want to change the extent of the Green Belt around the village so that houses can be built there but the draft plan keeps Standish's Green Belt intact.

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority will submit the plan to the housing minister, together with all the supporting documents, background evidence and any representations received during this final stage of consultation. Inspectors will then be appointed to undertake an independent examination of the plan.

This will take many months, with the plan due to be in place in early 2023. We will keep you updated on its progress.

### **Standish (virtual) Christmas Market**

Last month, we reported that Standish Christmas Market has had to be postponed for a year until December 2022.

We made the decision in September that we could not run the Market due to the Government continuing to advise that large scale events be COVID secure. Checking everyone in and out of the event would be logistically impossible and the real possibility of a substantial increase in COVID cases in December would put visitors and volunteers at risk from the virus. We could also potentially lose the many thousands of pounds the event costs to stage if we were made to cancel it at short notice.

But we will be running a 'virtual' Market, similar to last year, and we are asking for local singers, artists and entertainers to send in videos of themselves performing something festive to be part of our Market weekend, which will run from December 3 to 5. Just email:

[standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com](mailto:standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com)

Standish Voice would also like to thank Self-Storage Standish for its continued support of Standish Christmas Market by providing space to house all the materials and equipment we use for it – free of charge.

### **Public meetings**

Standish Voice held its first public meeting since the start of the pandemic this month, with the hope that they can continue – COVID willing.

Our meetings normally take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in a private room at Alberts, on School Lane. Our next meeting will take place on November 16<sup>th</sup> and anyone who lives or works in Standish is welcome to attend.

### **Healthier places plan**

Wigan Council is designing new planning proposals to create healthier developments in the borough – and you can have a say.

It aims to “positively influence the impact that planning decisions have on health and wellbeing”. Some may say “stable door”, “horse” and “bolted”.

The proposed Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) also aims to bring in a levy on developers to pay to increase in capacity in health facilities and to limit the number of new hot food takeaways across the borough.

The document includes prioritising pedestrians and encourages walking and cycling facilities, stresses the importance of biodiversity and open space, mandates developers to assess health and community facilities and contribute funds to allow them to cope with new developments,

The proposals to limit the numbers of new hot food takeaways across the borough are similar to ones which already apply in Standish through Standish Neighbourhood Plan. These are:

- Limiting the concentration of hot food takeaways within designated centres to no more than 10% of total ground floor commercial units
- Not allowing more than two adjoining or adjacent hot food takeaways
- Where located within 400 metres of a secondary school, applying planning conditions to restrict opening hours so they are closed at school closing times and ensure the availability and promotion of healthier food and drink options, at all times

People can comment on the proposals and you can read the document and comment on this link before December 2: <https://wigan-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/planningforhealth>