

Standish Voice Members' Newsletter – August 2021

You can read this newsletter online here: <https://mailchi.mp/ceccf1ed058f/standish-voice-august-newsletter>

Standish Coronavirus Help

Standish's Coronavirus support scheme, which has helped vulnerable people isolating in their homes for the past 18 months, has been wound down.

Standish Coronavirus Help (SCH) was running since the first weekend of the lockdown when Standish Voice and the village's three councillors – Adam Marsh, Debbie Parkinson and Ray Whittingham – formed the organisation to support those who did not want to leave their homes due to being severely at risk from COVID-19.

The group quickly assembled an army of volunteers from across Standish – with around 140 signed up to help their neighbours and ran a successful crowdfunder campaign which, combined with a grant from Wigan Council, paid for the running of the scheme.

During the year and a half, hundreds of shopping payments have gone through SCH's books and many other small acts of kindness have been arranged, from medicine pick-ups and drop-offs, helpers calling round just for a chat with those who could not leave their homes, and tradesmen being arranged for work to be carried out – sometimes free of charge.

SCH also arranged for the people it looked after to receive gifts of tulips in spring and poinsettias at Christmas and organised a festive hot meal for them in a partnership with a local pub. Food parcels were also sent round at the start of the pandemic and a 24-hour, 7 day a week helpline – manned free of charge by Standish company SMARTstrat – was set up so people could ring with problems.

The last people being helped through the scheme have now organised shopping to be dropped off in private arrangements, but the group stresses that it can restart its activities if lockdowns are ordered again.

A spokesman said: "Standish Coronavirus Help has been a hugely successful operation, with many hundreds of shopping trips being carried out for the vulnerable in our village and delivered by kind-hearted people in their community.

"We have had a rollercoaster ride organising it with highs of the wonderful feedback from those we have helped to the despair of having some of those people pass away during that time.

“The scheme has been something positive and uplifting out of a situation that was obviously terribly depressing and challenging for everyone.

“We would like to thank the many volunteers across Standish – some of whom were not called upon – who came forward to help those in need. We are incredibly grateful, too, to SMARTstrat, which has operated the helpline at its own expense for a year and a half – it was a lifeline to many people.

“Lots of people have been involved in organising the support group but it was successfully led by Councillor Adam Marsh and Standish Voice Treasurer Karen Bliss must be thanked for processing hundreds of payments which went from those we helped, through us and on to the volunteers for shopping trips – which kept everyone safe from anything untoward.

“Standish Coronavirus Help has been wound down but can spring back up again if needed in the future – and many of the friendships built up across the community will last for a lifetime.”

Consultation on 106 money spending

Unfortunately, we are still awaiting the results of the consultation into new infrastructure projects across Standish – even though the survey closed in April.

Wigan Council arranged for a meeting last month to reveal the results of the consultation but say the size of the response and problems relating to the pandemic mean they can now only discuss them next month.

We have expressed our deep concern about this as the council originally said the results would be made known after the local government elections in early May.

A meeting has now been arranged for early September and we shall share the outcome as soon as possible.

One of the proposals which the council put forward in the consultation is to widen School Lane into three lanes of traffic.

Standish Voice and the village’s councillors are totally opposed to the scheme, which will have a minimal impact on traffic for its £1.6m cost but reduce road safety, increase pollution, encourage more through traffic into Standish, increase the likelihood of more housebuilding on Standish’s green fields and ruin one entrance to the village.

Standish Voice would like this money to be spent on improvements to pedestrian areas in the Conservation Area of Standish, making our village centre a more attractive place for people to visit and shop in.

Places For Everyone

Please help protect Standish's Green Belt by responding to the new draft Greater Manchester plan.

The new masterplan will decide Standish's Green Belt for the next 15 years – and the draft of it protects all our Green Belt, the greenfield areas that encircle the village.

But some landowners and developers will argue that the some of our Green Belt – which would be protected until at least 2037 in the new plan – needs to be built on.

So you need to give your views in a public consultation to say we need to keep all our Green Belt due to the large amount of housebuilding in Standish, which has been too much and happened too quickly.

A previous GM plan, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, was scrapped after Stockport decided to reject it. Nine local authorities in GM, including Wigan, have designed the new document, called Places For Everyone.

In the draft plan, two small areas of land – on Bradley Lane and Crow Orchard Road – would be added to Standish's Green Belt.

An eight-week public consultation has now started, and we are asking people to take part in it and support the proposals for Standish.

Please send in your views, telling the consultation that our Green Belt should not be reduced.

To see the plan and submit your comments please go to:

<https://www.gmconsult.org/communications-and-engagement-team/pfe/consultation/> and fill out the form, giving your views.

Pictured below is a map of Standish with areas of the Green Belt that landowners and developers have said they want to build on – and asked GM to consider removing from protection.

Pepper Lane proposed development

A new housing development is being proposed for greenfield land in Standish.

The planned scheme is to build around 70 homes on a former stables and paddocks off Pepper Lane. Access would be near the entrance to Hyatt Crescent.

The land is owned by Persimmon Homes, which has built part of the estates on Rectory Lane.

At the moment this is not a planning application; it is a pre-application consultation which developers are encouraged to carry out ahead of planning permission being sought.

This site is designated as land safeguarded for future development - the same designation as the rest of the land now being built on in Standish.

Leaflets about the scheme have been sent to 500 homes in the area.

Standish Voice has already objected to the proposals, which we believe breach Standish Neighbourhood Plan and are another unwanted and unnecessary estate on greenfield land.

Standish Neighbourhood Plan has policies to limit building on safeguarded land - including that more homes should only be allowed there when a certain number of new houses have been built.

You can read about the new scheme and tell Persimmon why it should not take place on this website:

<https://www.pepperlanestandish.com>

The housing policies in Standish Neighbourhood Plan relating to Safeguarded Lane are:

H1: Safeguarded Land within the Standish Neighbourhood Area should only be released for housing development where it can be demonstrated that:

i) 1,148 of the homes already permitted on Safeguarded Land in Standish as at 31 July 2017, have been built out and occupied in line with the respective planning permissions

ii) All of the necessary infrastructure works required through legal agreements for the level of housing have been completed and implemented and

iii) It is demonstrably evidenced that further housing development can be accommodated across the full range of transport, health, education, open space, community and utility infrastructure without detriment to the character and wellbeing of Standish as a viable sustainable place to live, work and visit

Exceptions to clause i) of this policy are:

- *100% affordable housing development*
- *Accommodation for older people, including specialist housing and extra care schemes; and*
- *Additional homes on sites that already have planning permission.*

Rectory Lane footpath

Thank-you to more than 50 people who came forward to help Standish Voice preserve a well-used path.

The path from Rectory Lane to Chorley Road has been blocked by a developer as it is not official recognised.

Standish Voice committee member Ron Wade is applying for it to be made a Public Right of Way and needs the testimony of people who used it for 20 years or more.

More than 50 people came forward and Ron has sent them forms to complete to be passed to Wigan Council as part of the submission.

If you asked to help and did not receive a reply or can still do so, please email standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com

We will update you with the result.

The photo shows the path entrance near Rectory Lane bridge.

Standish Voice Facebook page

Standish Voice's Facebook page now has more than 10,000 Likes!

The public page tries to give news, advice and help to Standish residents and has more followers than any other social media group in the village.

Since the page was created in 2015 only eight people have been banned from posting comments on the page – for flagrant breaches of our code of conduct – which is a very small number and testament to the respect and kindness people show to each other in our community.

Thank-you to everyone who contributes and shares our posts – you are the bedrock of a great social media community.

Please Like our page if you have not done so and you will see more of our posts in your timeline.

Wainhomes work on The Line

Standish Voice has asked the council to investigate work carried out on The Line by developers Wainhomes.

The company has dug up some of the route for drains to be laid but the surface has not been put back properly.

Residents have contacted Standish Voice saying the state of the bridleway is unacceptable and we have passed these complaints to Wigan Council.

We also alerted the council to fencing blocking off The Line without warning to allow the work to take place, resulting in people being diverted from the popular route.

Work is on-going in the field next to The Line, which is an extension to Wainhomes' Cat l' Th' Window estate.

Resuming our public meetings

In line with Government guidelines, Standish Voice suspended its public meetings in March last year in response to the pandemic and lockdown.

Your committee has been meeting virtually but we are now able to restart our public meetings, with the first one arranged for Tuesday, October 19th.

Our meetings are usually held on the third or fourth Tuesday of each month and we will hold them in a meeting room at Albert's, on School Lane, as before.

Albert's is generously giving the room free of charge, for which we are very grateful, and any member of the public from Standish is welcome to attend, especially our members.

We hope to see you at the meeting, which starts at 7.45pm.