

You can read an online version of this newsletter here:

<https://mailchi.mp/b64b06a17619/standish-voice-september-newsletter>

## **COUNCIL PROPOSAL TO WIDEN SCHOOL LANE**

Wigan Council has revealed the results of its consultation on future projects in Standish – including its proposed widening of School Lane.

The council carried out a survey in March and has now released the findings - which show that 61% of people who responded were unhappy with the plan to add an extra lane to the road, costing £1.6m, running from Green Lane to Quakers Place – with 33% of people completely unhappy with the plan.

The results, pictured below, show that 37% of people were happy with the idea to varying degrees with 14.4% of people completely happy.

However, a council statement released today says response to the plan was 'mixed' and there is the inference it will plough on with the plan, despite public opposition to the scheme and total opposition by Standish Voice and Standish's three councillors.

The public opposition to the road widening scheme is even more stark when you factor in that the survey itself was written in a way to promote the council's preferred option. Standish Voice sent this response to the local media in reply to the council's statement: "It is clear from the findings that most of the people in Standish do not want the widening of School Lane to go ahead.

"61% of people were unhappy with this option while only 37% were happy for it to go ahead.

"Standish Voice and our three ward councillors are totally against this scheme. We know congestion at rush hour is a problem in Standish but this proposal will not solve that, it will just waste £1.6M, encourage more through traffic, facilitate even more housebuilding on our green fields, ultimately increase pollution on the second most polluted road in the borough and ruin an entrance to our historic village.

"Sadly, it seems that the council is intent on pushing this proposal through, despite a people-friendly scheme to improve the village centre on the table that half the respondents to the survey were happy to endorse and which comes out of Standish Neighbourhood Plan, which more than 90% of people in Standish voted 'Yes' to."

## **CONSULTATION RESULTS**

Standish residents were asked 15 questions in the consultation, which will inform the council's decisions on how to spend around £3m of Section 106 money.

Around £6.6m is available from the housing developments in the village for new infrastructure, with £2.1 going on education, including an already built extension to St Wilfrid's School (£550,000) and a phased approach to making Wood Fold Primary bigger – with the initial stages costing £850,000 – to eventually increasing its size by half again. It may also be used to extend St Marie's Primary if pupil numbers continue to increase.

£1.3m has already been agreed and spent on other projects including the new Standish Leisure Centre which opened early last year and on the upgrading of The Line.

### **Christmas Market**

It is with great sadness that Standish Voice and the Standish Christmas Market Committee announce that this December's Standish Christmas Market will be postponed until 2022.

We have monitored the COVID-19 situation closely over the past months, studied the rules on mass events, and liaised with the colleagues we work with on the Market from St Wilfrid's Church and the Friends of Standish Library.

The Government guidelines for mass gatherings includes minimising transmission of Coronavirus, which is something we could not guarantee.

As the Market attracts around 5,000 people and is a free, public event, we would be unable to organise the checking of people's vaccination status or recent COVID test history.

We must also consider the safety of our 60 to 70 volunteers who help to run the Market on the day, Government advice of mask wearing in crowded places, and the inability to guarantee the enforcement of social distancing.

We are also aware of predictions of an increase in COVID-19 in the winter months and the chance of new restrictions being imposed at short notice which could jeopardise us financially and put future Markets in doubt.

While this will come as a great disappointment to many people, we hope you understand the reasoning behind this decision.

We will be organising a virtual event as last year, which we hope people will join in with and are looking into the possibility of a small scale celebration of our Christmas Tree lights being switched on.

We will be planning Standish Christmas Market 2022 from early in the New Year – volunteers wishing to join us will be very welcome.

<https://www.wigantoday.net/news/people/covid-fears-causing-axing-of-popular-wigan-christmas-market-3366790>

### **Places for Everyone**

A number of people contacted Standish Voice after our last newsletter saying they found it very difficult to comment on the new Greater Manchester plan which will decide the amount of protected Green Belt land in Standish.

The draft masterplan keeps Standish's Green Belt intact until 2037 but we expect some landowners and developers to object and argue that the some of the Green Belt should be built on.

An eight-week public consultation is underway and we urge people to take part in it and support the proposals for Standish.

Please send in your views, telling the consultation that you support the draft plan and our Green Belt should not be reduced, until October 3.

If you have had difficulty in sending your information, you can email it to:  
[placesforeveryone@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:placesforeveryone@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Pictured below is a map with sites that landowners and developers want to build on and asked GM to consider removing from protection.