

STANDISH VOICE AGM 2022 – VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

During the past year, we have continued our role as a statutory consultee on planning issues in Standish.

We have responded to the latest version of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework which will hopefully protect Standish's Green Belt until its expiry in 2037. A number of our members responded to our request to send in submissions and we thank them for that.

We will be following the progress of the Framework over this year as it is examined by inspectors and hopefully it will be in force in early 2023.

We began campaigning for affordable homes on the demolished half of the Bradley Hall Trading Estate several years ago.

Despite this being owned by the government's Homes England organisation, only 25% of the homes planned were classed as affordable.

After we took our campaign to the housing minister, the site was sold to a housing association which earlier this year submitted and had approved a 148-home planning application for 100% affordable homes. We believe this site should have remained as employment land but we are pleased it will at least now provide much-needed affordable homes in Standish.

The other half of the trading estate was put up for sale during 2021 and we made submissions to Wigan Council to ensure they were aware of the situation. Standish Neighbourhood Plan protects this site as employment land and we will be monitoring this as we need to ensure it is kept as an industrial estate.

We raised objections to a new greenfield housing development site off Pepper Lane, which landowner consulted the community on, pointing out the housing policies in the neighbourhood plan. The housebuilder suggested a planning application would be submitted last autumn, but this has not yet transpired.

We objected to the building of a 48-bed care unit in the grounds of a residential home on Chorley Road. While we agreed it was a well-designed and much-needed facility, we could not support it as it would be constructed in our Green Belt. The council later passed the application.

We made submissions to the local authority on new planning policies, including the council's Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document and Air Quality Strategy.

Some of our committee members were involved in other issues, including Ron Wade and Janet Monks submitting an application to protect a footpath off Rectory Lane, which had been blocked by developers.

Ron also partnered with Lancashire Wildlife Trust to seed the grassed area on Crow Orchard Road as part of an initiative called Naturalising The Borough.

We also helped a number of organisations and projects across Standish as our bank account has been used to distributed Brighter Borough funds, organised by our councillors.

We also continued to have our committee members representing on various Standish organisations, including Diane on the Christmas Decorations Committee, Fran on the Friends of Standish Library and Sarah on a number of schools committees, as well as Sarah, Ian, Kathy and Diane on the Christmas Market Committee.

So, I'd like all our committee members for their continued hard work.

I'd also like to thank Gill, as chair, for her continued leadership and support in a difficult year and her common sense and negotiation skills during our protracted deliberations with Wigan Council over the 106 agreement projects.