

Standish Voice newsletter – January 2022

You can read this newsletter digitally by following this link:

<https://mailchi.mp/87fcf4cb464a/standish-voice-january-newsletter>

### School Lane Road Scheme update

Standish Voice has continued to make representations to Wigan Council against its plan to widen School Lane.

We recently asked that the modelling which the council claims shows a benefit to congestion in the centre of Standish for the project be done again when the through road from Almond Brook Road to Pepper Lane opens.

This road, Almond Green Avenue, has been created with the building of the Wainhomes and Bloor estates and when the plans for those developments were passed in 2014, the council said this road would ease congestion at Standish centre crossroads.

We are sceptical about that but nevertheless asked the council to take this new road into consideration when debating whether to widen School Lane. The council has responded saying that this road was taken into consideration when Transport for Greater Manchester modelled the widening scheme. However, we do not think this could adequately be done years before the road was due to open.

### Standish 106 Agreement projects

Wigan Council has agreed to spend around £6m in Standish on infrastructure – money from the housing developers.

Some has already been spent, including on Standish Leisure Centre and the upgrade of The Line. Other money is earmarked for extending Standish primary schools when this is needed.

There is about £3m for other projects and these include the School Lane scheme as well as upgrades to parks and walking and cycling routes.

The council decided to create a process for agreeing these schemes and this governance process is due to be considered by Wigan Council's Cabinet in early 2022.

We will keep you informed.

You are invited to our AGM

Standish Voice will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm.

At the AGM, committee members and officers will be elected in line with the constitution, there will be officer reports of the past year and the accounts will be presented.

All members of Standish Voice are invited – if you receive this newsletter, you are a member of Standish Voice.

Due to the high incidence of COVID-19, we will not hold this meeting face-to-face.

You can join via this Zoom link: ????

To see the Agenda, click here??. To see the minutes of the last AGM, click here??.

### Supporting improved opening hours at Standish Library

Standish Voice has requested that Wigan Council urgently reviews the opening times of Standish Library.

While we are pleased that the library has finally re-opened after lockdowns and staffing shortages, we think the new opening hours are wholly inadequate. The 5pm closing time precludes most working people from accessing the library and means parents have little or no opportunity to visit it with their children, especially as it is now closed on Saturdays.

We have asked that the library opens beyond 'office' hours, into an evening, at least one day a week and opens, as before, on Saturday mornings.

The Friends of Standish Library have also asked for the times to be extended.

The council has responded by saying the times will be reviewed soon.

If you would like to volunteer at the library, please visit it to offer your services, contact The Friends via their Facebook page or email Standish Voice.

### Thanks for attending our virtual Christmas Market

Due to the situation with COVID-19, we were unable to stage our usual Christmas Market in early December.

This was unfortunate but the right thing to do to keep people, including our many volunteers, safe from the virus and to preserve our finances so we can ensure Christmas Markets are staged in future years.

We did hold a virtual Christmas Market, which include digital stalls that many people visited and entertainment from schools and talented performers – including Standish's professional stand-up comic Jamie Sutherland, Wigan Ukulele Club and Coppull and Standish Brass Band – on our Facebook pages.

We also held a switch-on of the lights on Standish Christmas Tree, with Rector Andrew Holliday counting down to the lighting up and carols performed by Prospect brass band.

Thanks to everyone who took part and also thanks to Standish Voice organisers Kathy Robertson, Ian Trafford, Sarah Djali and Paul Ogden for their work on it.

Thanks also to Michael Djali and Sarah for designing and arranging the Christmas Trail, which families followed around the shops and thanks to the outlets which took part. A big round of applause, too, to Stephen at Number 21 cards & stationery for helping with the printing.

Thanks also to Standish Self Storage, main sponsors of the virtual Christmas Market.

Soon, we will be beginning our planning of a real Christmas Market in December 2022. Please contact us if you would like to join the organising committee.

Have your say on proposed new political boundaries for Standish

Standish's political boundaries could be shaken up in a top-level review.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has plans to alter boundaries across the UK, including Wigan, changing ward demarcations.

The number of wards in Wigan would be the same – 25 – with three councillors each, but the boundaries between them would alter.

Currently, Standish with Langtree Ward runs to the railway line when it becomes Aspull – and Shevington Moor is part of Shevington Ward and Parish. The new draft boundaries would shift the boundary of Aspull and carve up the Chorley Road area between Standish and Wigan Centre – with even Boar's Head Avenue area being shifted out of Standish.

Also, the Robin Hill and Old Pepper Lane area would move into Shevington And Standish Lower Ground ward.

This is because the Commission wants around 3,322 people per councillor.

The plans, if passed, would be effective from the May 2023 election.

You can see some of the changes in these maps, with the blue lines being the boundaries now and the red being the proposed ones.

You can view the changes and have your say until February 7th via this link:

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/28212>

Read a news story on this here:

<https://www.wigantoday.net/news/politics/new-boundary-proposals-for-most-council-wards-across-wigan-borough-3488809>