

Standish Voice - April 2022 newsletter

You can read this newsletter online here: <https://mailchi.mp/2c3bbfb74e4f/standish-voice-april-newsletter>

Rectory Lane access request

Standish Voice has objected to housing developers' request for an alternative access to a yet-to-be-built estate.

Wainhomes won planning permission at appeal for the 119-home development on Rectory Lane, in between the newly-built Countryside development opposite The Owls and the railway line. Access was only through the Countryside's Barrowcroft Green estate.

Now the developer also wants to access the land from Rectory Lane itself – a junction originally ruled as unworkable by Wigan Council.

The council originally refused planning permission for the estate on farmland, but a Government planning inspector overturned that refusal and allowed outline permission in 2017, with detailed plans being passed in March last year.

But developers Wainhomes seem to be worried about the narrow estate roads – and the fact that the main access road is still unadopted – which construction traffic would have to use.

Many people, including residents, Standish Voice and councillors objected to the detailed plans, stating that construction traffic would be very dangerous and hugely impact residents' lives.

In this latest application, Standish Voice has objected to both accesses for this site, which are totally unacceptable.

A spokesperson for Standish Voice said: "Planning permission for this site should not have been given in the first place – Wigan Council was right to refuse it.

"Not only is this a greenfield area, but access is far too difficult. Either it is through winding residential roads in an existing estate, which is hugely dangerous, or it is on a blind bend on a dark and notoriously busy stretch of road.

"Rectory Lane at that point is either congested in the rush hours or a racetrack at quieter times of the day.

"Access there would be a huge danger. The council originally dismissed this access as unworkable and needs to uphold that view now.

"This is another example of an unelected Government inspector allowing a totally inappropriate housing development in Standish without knowing or understanding the local conditions or, frankly, caring about the future ramifications of their decision on our community.

"The other example is the Lurdin Lane site, where a planning inspector's decision to grant planning permission has been mired in the planning process as access is still in dispute almost 10 years after it was first lodged."

To see the plans, visit:- <https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/.../applicationDetails.do...>

The map shows the current and proposed access to the development site.

You can read a news story on this here: <https://www.wigantoday.net/lifestyle/homes-and-gardens/wigan-residents-group-opposed-to-new-site-access-3636133?fbclid=IwAR3CjcfZuMauMKoj8Rh7cH5b3yIIQD53pX4VGSSgLY-8Duw55oYORRjuTjY>

Standish Christmas Market is back

After being postponed for two years, Standish Christmas Market will return in December and we are planning it to be bigger and better than before.

The day will be Saturday, December 3rd – so save the date.

If any businesses want to sponsor the Market in return for publicity, please contact Standish Voice at standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com

Time to stop planning application at Lurdin Lane

Wigan Council is still considering our request to rescind planning permission for land at Lurdin Lane, off Chorley Road. Residents have been living with a planning application on land next to them for NINE years and this is unacceptable.

See a news story on this here: <https://www.wigantoday.net/news/politics/council/wigan-community-group-calls-on-council-to-rescind-planning-permission-3611740>

Wood Fold School extension

Wood Fold School is planning an extension with a new nursery building and games pitch.

The Green Lane School has asked for planning permission to build a new nursery, with the existing Fledglings nursery turning into extra classroom facilities for more children at the school. There would also be a new MUGA pitch in the plans.

The new facilities will be paid for by 106 Section funding – money from the developers of the new housing estates in Standish.

Schools are expanding as more people move to Standish to live in the new homes. St Wilfrid's Primary School built two new classrooms with the 106 funding money a few years ago and there is money available to expand St Marie's School when necessary.

Standish High School has said it does not wish to significantly increase the numbers of students there, which is likely to mean the catchment area for the school would shrink over time as more children living in Standish attend the school.

Pictured is a plan of the Wood Fold development.

Police are asking for your views

You can have your say on policing in Standish.

Greater Manchester Police are asking for views on how the force is performing and what people want to see change.

Standish Voice committee members Diane Gore and Judith Atherton recently attended one of a series of roadshow events which GMP delivered to highlight policing and the survey.

Diane and Judith report: "At the event in Wigan, new Chief Constable Stephen Watson and Chief Superintendent Emily Higham promised a radical shake-up of the force.

"Reporting and response times have improved and each neighbourhood will have a dedicated team, linked with an Inspector, Sergeant and PSCOs. There will be more visibility, they will listen to issues, more problem solving and there will be fully documented crime reports.

"They said police would work with community groups, businesses, social workers and neighbourhood watch groups, which would be revitalised.

"There was further discussion on various aspects of policing in Wigan, including the town centre and anti-social behaviour and a crackdown on uninsured drivers was promised."

You can have your voice heard by completing the survey by clicking here.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X6W6SGS?fbclid=IwAR2Lm0i4r2KnKxcZQNAxNPTys6YrtklfTrUSbwZlalcUVSvBKAH2It7UHI8>

Hot idea to help the hospice

Standish Voice committee member Ian Trafford felt the heat recently when he walked on coals to raise money for Wigan Hospice.

Ian, one of the main organisers of Standish Christmas Market, joined others to walk over the hot coals in memory of his dad, John, and a family friend Susan Jones.

Ian said: "Cancer affects absolutely everyone. Even if you're lucky enough to avoid it, you still know people who aren't so lucky. The Hospice provides a difficult and important service. Doubly so in recent years, when seeing loved ones at the worst time has become so hard. Any money we can raise with this is totally appreciated, so a massive thanks to everyone who can donate."

You can donate by following the link here: <https://is.gd/oDbV1a>

Almond Brook Road scheme

Standish Voice has objected to a renewed application to create an access from Almond Brook Road into an area of land, which we believe is the beginning of attempts to seek residential development.

The Green Belt site is the former St Marie's School, which is sealed off to public access, and the landowner says a road into the area would help with maintenance. Nearby residents have also objected.

A bench for Keith

A bench has been unveiled in memory of local historian and Standish Voice member and supporter Keith Douglas.

The bench is next to St Wilfrid's Church, not far from Cross Street where Keith lived, and is a lovely tribute to a wonderful Standisher.

New plans for Robin Hill Field

Plans to plant trees on a greenfield area at Robin Hill have been postponed so a scheme for the whole area can be created.

Robin Hill Field, a triangular shaped field next to Standish High School on The Line, was designated an area of Local Green Space by Standish Neighbourhood Plan in 2019, protecting it from development until 2030.

The council owns the field and Standish Voice was worried that, with housebuilding going on on all sides, the council would sell the land for more development, despite the local authority admitting that parks are in short supply in north Standish.

Manchester's City of Trees planned to plant trees on a small corner of the site but this has been postponed so that a scheme for the whole field can be worked up.

We will keep you posted on this and ask for your views once it is completed. Please send in your thoughts on this site to standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com

Last month, trees were planted at Victoria Pit reclamation site – which the Neighbourhood Plan also declared as Local Green Space – near Pilgrims Way, by City of Trees.