Wigan Council has scrapped its plans to widen one of the main roads into Standish.

Wigan’s ruling Cabinet committee agreed with their officers who recommend that the scheme, which would have cost at least £1.6m, should not go ahead due to huge opposition and because it would swallow up money that could be spent on other initiatives.

Different projects to be paid for by housing developer funding were agreed by the Cabinet after they were consulted on in Spring 2021, where and there was widespread opposition to the road widening plans.

The Cabinet agreed to road and footpath improvements, including upgrading some of Standish’s footpaths and bridlepaths so they are better for cyclists and walkers – after the success of the upgrade of The Line.

As part of the plans, the zebra crossing on Market Street will become a puffin crossing to link with the changes of the crossroads lights which should reduce queuing, an upgrade to Red Rock bridge lights to reduce congestion, and installing traffic lights with pedestrian options at the railway bridge on Bradley Lane to improve safety.

Around £1m will be held back from developers’ infrastructure funding contributions for new schemes in Standish to come forward - we hope our proposals to improve the centre of Standish and its conservation area in order to make it more pleasant for people to visit, shop in and work in can be progressed.

A spokesperson for Standish Voice said: “We are pleased and relieved that this flawed scheme has been dropped. Standish Voice Neighbourhood Forum, all three Standish councillors, and the vast majority of residents who took part in the consultation were against this proposal, which would have been a waste of £1.6m-plus and only made congestion worse in the long run.

“We are grateful that Wigan Council has acknowledged the huge opposition to this scheme and the democratic will of their own consultation is reflected this decision.

“The road widening would have had a minimal impact on existing travel times but would have encouraged more through traffic and increased the likelihood of further housebuilding on Standish’s green fields, while ruining one entrance to the village.

“In May’s local election, all candidates in the poll expressed their opposition to the scheme and we have been lobbying Wigan Council, its officers and councillors, long and hard to urge them to dismiss this plan ever since it was first suggested.

“We will now work with Wigan Council to progress the other infrastructure improvements that will go ahead and also press our plans for much-needed improvements to Standish conservation area which will make the village centre a more attractive place to visit, shop in and work in. We want our village centre to largely benefit people and not just cars.”

“We would like to thank everyone in Standish who supported our campaign to prevent the widening of School Lane.”

You can read the Wigan Council article about this here, with a link to the report to Cabinet: <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/News/Articles/2022/July/Millions-reinvested-into-communities-as-part-of-major-infrastructure-programme.aspx?fs=e&s=cl&fbclid=IwAR0i_Eb2vEnsXl9eLuDrnTF7zQyzag_35_PdThLlwKtIzW1ODqFdQDoKvlg>

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Applications for this year's Standish Christmas Market are now open!

The free-to-attend event will be held on Saturday 3rd December at Market Place and surrounding areas. The online event runs from Friday 2nd December to Sunday the 4th.

This year, we are adding Standish Community Centre to the indoor stall areas, alongside St Wilfrid’s Parish Hall and the Standish Methodist Church Hall, in our commitment to make the Market bigger and better after two years postponed due to COVID-19.

If you would like to apply for a stall, simply click the appropriate link below and complete the online form.

Indoor :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSclPv_i9SWdwElhHNse3Oqdr9stpBSbarPotzD_a9PgPkLm_A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&fbclid=IwAR2KmaCdGO_926qO5RPpfRThw3FDm9qqKwhOWRKKWhx5EFppT5tr10L-DUI>

Outdoor :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9OxdclcU4SQRwJ7MKrDQbfP2aYaCQyyC2fRPB_fckUTpT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&fbclid=IwAR1oaoRWEhIznol4WstpzHJTZcXJD4gy1Ih66MMkVZWsK2alrNCYjBvvHc8>

Hot Food :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScBawsh0EXCd_sAQeZ666T6wyC42M2HiTWPm_eQqxXQvfRVyg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&fbclid=IwAR008Si_eStDOi6wIEumn2dmJnPTWfQa03sah-kFsk3K1aNWxgFkmtS9zuk>

Applications close at the end of July.

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Standish Voice is working with Wigan Council and City of Trees to progress improved amenity and biodiversity in one of the last remaining publicly accessible fields in north Standish.

We are working on a scheme, which will be put out to consultation, for the triangular field opposite Standish High School, to include tree and wildflower planting and new pathways.

Standish Voice first suggested this to Wigan Council and City of Trees in 2018 but a lack of interest from the local authority, combined with the pandemic, saw it put on hold.

Standish Voice protected this field, which is owned by Wigan Council, as Local Green Space in the 2019 Neighbourhood Plan, but this designation runs out in 2030 and we hope the new scheme will give the field long-term protection.

We are also working on with The Wildlife Trust on this and other green areas in Standish and will inform you when plans for the field are further progressed.

You can read a Wildlife Trust report on Standish, which we commissioned, here: <http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/LWT-advice-on-Standish-Neighbourhood-Plan-December-2019.pdf>

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Did you know Standish Cricket Club is celebrating 100 years at its base in Green Lane?

Standish Voice has sent a letter to the club congratulating it on the landmark and thanking the members and committee for their hard work in the community, especially in training young cricketers to enjoy the game.

We also offered our support in their efforts to improve the facilities at their ground in order that the club can look forward to another 100 years at Green Lane.

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Can you help Standish community gardeners with their new project to make our village that much more beautiful and biodiverse?

Standish Busy Bees, who have done fantastic work at their existing plot at the top of Almond Brook Road, are preparing to launch a new project.

The site of their new shady community garden is secret for now but the group is appealing for plants.

Organiser Lynn Cobley said: “We are taking on a new Community Garden. Just in the very early planning stage but hoping to have amazing results as Standish is a fantastic community that supports and encourages our Busy Bees group.

“Without giving too much information out at the minute, may I in advance request that any one digging up, splitting or willing to donate any shade loving plants we will be very pleased to give them a new home.

“If you are able to help with plants, I am able to store them until we are ready for a planting day.

“Hostas, ferns, lupins, primrose, primulas, forget me not, foxgloves, daffodils, crocus and snowdrop bulbs will be all be very much welcome.”

You can join the group by clicking here.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3458012404299552>

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A Standish man is in training to walk almost the length of Spain raising money for charity.

Bernie Molloy will trek just over 1,000 km (620 miles) along the Via de la Plata, considered the toughest of the Spanish Camino pilgrimage walks.

He starts in September from Seville and will walk up the length of Portugal’s border, finishing in Santiago in November.

Bernie is currently in training, walking up to 20 miles with a pack, to get ready for the trek through some of Spain’s least inhabited areas.

He is raising money for the British Tinnitus Association as not long after he retired from working at Heinz in Wigan he started to suffer from the condition.

Bernie said: “I had always planned to attempt to solo walk the Via de la Plata in Spain (similar to the popular Camino de Frances pilgrimage).

"The Via is considered the most difficult of the Spanish Caminos, due to the total length of the walk and the big distances between stop overs.

“I started suffering with persistent tinnitus about a year ago, which can be debilitating at times. Over 7 million people in the UK suffer with tinnitus and there is no cure.

“I’m raising money for the British Tinnitus Association to help raise awareness of the condition. Wish me luck, I'm going to need it!”

You can support Bernie by donating to his Just Giving page: [https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BernieMolloy3](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BernieMolloy3?fbclid=IwAR0UZ56i05n7WCGO_eRiQ8h2-yc7rJ4ZeGdH_PH0aH0V8ycqp2LPrWVdyxk)