**STANDISH VOICE NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2022**

Two planning applications have been submitted to Wigan Council which, if passed, would lead to yet more inappropriate house building in Standish.

We are asking our members to object to them as they enable building on Safeguarded Land, which is limited though policies in Standish Neighbourhood Plan.

One is an extension of the Bloor Homes estate, off Pepper Lane, where 13 homes are planned, with the demolition of Robin Hill Farm West and its outbuildings.

The vacant farmhouse is next to the 300-home estate currently being built. Bloor Homes bought the property a few years ago and it has been boarded up ever since. The plans show an access from the estate currently being built and three or four-bed homes proposed for the site where the property and gardens now are.

Standish Voice has objected to the application because though this land is classed as Safeguarded (for future development), there is a policy in Standish Neighbourhood Plan stating that 1,148 homes need to be occupied on the Safeguarded Land already being built out before any new planning can be passed. This figure will be reached in the near future, though, and we have asked Wigan Council for an update on the number of new homes currently occupied.

We have also objected to the plan as only about 10% of the homes would be affordable and there is a Wigan Council minimum of 25%, unless extenuating reasons apply.

You can see the plan and comment on it here: <https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RB1ZRORR0C200&activeTab=summary>

Or you can email your objection to: planning@wigan.gov.uk

A planning application by Seddon Homes has also been submitted to demolish a house on Chorley Road that could give developers access to more greenfield land, which is also Safeguarded as an area earmarked for development.

It is 117 Chorley Road, next to Fairhurst Lane, and knocking it down and building an access road in its place would give developers access to land behind Rowton Rise, in front of the railway line. No application has yet been submitted for housing, but if access is granted, an application would be expected soon after.

You can see the plan and comment on it here: <https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=R5I3VJRRH4P00&activeTab=summary>

Or you can email your objection to: planning@wigan.gov.uk

Read a news story about the Bloor application here: <https://www.wigantoday.net/business/planning-application-submitted-for-more-housing-in-wigan-township-3791536?IYA-mail=186cf572-84dc-4f58-91c7-d6ea6a797e78>

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Standish Christmas Market returns on December 3rd after being postponed for two years due to the pandemic.

Applications for traders have now closed. We are working through the applications and if any spaces are still available, we will re-advertise this in the coming weeks.

Thanks to all stallholders who have signed up – it is bound to be a hugely popular event.

If any Standish businesses would like to sponsor the Market, or provide a raffle prize, your generosity will be rewarded with publicity for your company and you will be helping to ensure the Market carries on into the future. If you can do this, please email us at standishneighbhourhoodforum@gmail.com.

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Standish’s foremost historian has made £600 for good causes in the village from a reprint of his latest book.

Stan Aspinall, who once was Deputy Headteacher at Standish High School, will split the money between the Friends of Standish Library and My Life charity.

His book, Standish 1901-2001 A Century of Change, was published in 2018 and it quickly sold out but demand persuaded Stan to do a reprint and the new copies were quickly snapped up.

Stan, who was brought up in Church Street, still visits Standish regularly from his home in Cumbria and gives talks to local groups about the history of the village and the prominent families who lived here.

He has written a number of publications about Standish as well as historical books on other subjects – and last year received a national award for ‘Outstanding Contribution To Local History’

Thanks, Stan. It is great to see money being recycled in the village from your knowledge of our history!

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Standish’s arts space is holding an exhibition from tomorrow (Friday) which is free to see at its new studios.

Wigan multimedia artist Matylda Augustynek will be showcasing new artwork in her first solo show, FARtHER, in the brand-new Cross Street Arts Gallery, upstairs in The Standish Centre, opposite Standish Library.

Matylda’s show is a retrospective of significant milestones such as graduating from university and becoming a first-time mother. This exhibition is a journey through the past few years of her life and is inspired by her experiences and the geopolitical situation in the world.

Cross Street Arts said: “CSA are thrilled to open this new gallery space with an ambitious exhibition from Matylda, a 28-year-old mum-of-one who is also a sculptor, painter, videographer and her portfolio includes lino prints, short films and photography.”

The exhibition is on from 5th August to 3rd September. To book free tickets, go to <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BSRP>

Exhibition opening times:

Friday 5th August – 7pm-9pm - Opening Reception & Open Studios

Saturday 6th August – 11am-4pm - Exhibition & Open Studios

Sunday 7th August – Noon-4pm - Exhibition

8th August – 3rd September - Exhibition by Appointment

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Standish organisations can take advantage of a £2.6m Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund that is now open to applications.

The fund makes small and large grants available for community groups wanting to create new spaces or improve existing ones in their local area, particularly where there is currently poor local access to good quality green space.

Community groups can find out more about the fund and apply here. The first applications round runs until 9am on 22nd August, before reopening again in October.

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Standish Voice does not hold its monthly public meetings in August, due to summer holidays, so the next one will be on Tuesday, September 20th, at 7.45pm in a private room at Alberts, on School Lane.

All members are welcome to attend. You can read minutes of previous meetings on our website: www.standishvoice.co.uk