

STANDISH VOICE – SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

The Greater Manchester plan which is set to preserve Standish's existing Green Belt for another 15 years will go to a public inquiry in November.

Places For Everyone is the regional masterplan and the inquiry will begin on November 1 and last about five months.

So far, Standish's Green Belt, the fields that ring the village, is being kept unchanged and undeveloped, despite many landowners and housing developers wanting to alter it so they can build more homes on greenfield land.

So far, any intended changes – which you can see in the map below – have been resisted by the planning authorities, but developers can argue their case to alter this at the public inquiry.

Standish Voice has lobbied for several years against any reduction to Standish's Green Belt, arguing that housebuilding has been too much, too quickly already over the past decade, and we are hoping this argument will continue to be heard.

We will be monitoring the public inquiry to see if Standish's Green Belt is focussed on and keep you informed.

After the public inquiry and it is adopted by local councils, the plan will inform development in Wigan, Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside and Trafford until 2037. This includes outlining how the region will meet housing targets and maintain a five-year land supply of housing sites.

It has been a drawn-out process for Places For Everyone, which replaced the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework that had been proposed in 2016. GMSF had gone through three iterations before Stockport Council dropped out in December 2020, leading to the creation of Places for Everyone.

Pictured are the sites in Standish's Green Belt where developers and landowners want to build more homes. If the Places For Everyone plan is ratified, the sites will be kept as Green Belt until at least 2037.

For more info on the public inquiry, see: <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/.../examination/>

Christmas Market

We have reopened applications to traders for this year's Standish Christmas Market.

We still have limited spaces for outdoor, hot food and indoor traders at the popular Market, which will be held on Saturday, December 3.

Please email standishvoiceeventtraders@gmail.com now for your application pack.

We are also looking for volunteers to sign up to help us stage the event on the day – or the day before setting up or the day after packing away.

We couldn't run the Market without the wonderful volunteers who help us out and they all say what a great, fun day it is, meeting and greeting people full of festive cheer and doing something worthwhile for their community.

If you are interested in helping us, please email standishvoicevolunteers@gmail.com and we can tell you all about it, with no obligation for you to take part. You can give as little or as much time as you wish – but all help is really appreciated.

Rectory Lane

Developer Wainhomes has cleared hedgerow on Rectory Lane to make a new access to its house building site.

The site, next to the railway line down the hill from the Owls, will have 119 homes after it was refused by Wigan Council but passed by a Government planning inspector in 2017.

Access to the site was to be through the existing Barrowcroft estate but Wainhomes recently re-submitted a plan for access directly off Rectory Lane after this was initially refused.

Residents on the estate objected to construction traffic passing their homes - but other objectors said it was dangerous for the junction to be on Rectory Lane.

Wigan Council agreed to allow the new access saying it would be preferable to vehicles going through the existing estate, and a reduction in the speed limit on Rectory Lane to 30mph made it safer.

You can see the site of the new junction in these images.

Standish Library

Standish Library is now open longer, with more family friendly hours.

The library will now open on Saturday mornings, from 9am to 12 noon, and until 5pm on Thursdays and Fridays.

Shevington Library and other community libraries across the borough will also have extended hours.

Earlier this year, Standish Voice and the Friends of Standish Library wrote to the council, urging them to extend opening hours similar to the ones in place before the pandemic.

Councillor Chris Ready, the council's portfolio holder for communities, said: "Our libraries are brilliant community hubs, and I'm really pleased that residents will be able to enjoy them even more with their new opening hours.

"We have already seen so many fantastic events taking place libraries this summer but the new hours are here to stay, meaning that residents can come and take in what our libraries have to offer all year round."

A spokesperson from Standish Voice said: "Standish Library is a fantastic and popular facility and we are grateful that the council has been able to extend access so that more people can use it. There's lots going on so please visit our village library."

Standish library's new opening hours are:

Monday – Wednesday 9am – 2pm

Thursday – Friday 12pm – 5pm

Saturday 9am – 2pm