

## NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER, 2022

Wigan Council is asking for your views on how it creates its own Local Plan, which will shape development in Standish and the rest of Wigan until 2040.

The is preparing its next long-term development blueprint - 'Planning for the future to 2040' – for things like transport, housing, town centres, jobs and the environment.

The first stage is a public survey to gather information and your views. It is a questionnaire which takes about 10 minutes to complete with questions on lots of issues and a chance to give your priorities. Please take part. You need to complete it before December 11<sup>th</sup>.

To fill it in, click on this link: <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/Consultations/Future-plan/index.aspx>

The council says: “It is envisaged that the Local Plan will allocate specific sites for development to facilitate sustainable development, deliver associated infrastructure and address development needs over the next 15 years. We intend to focus particularly on ensuring that the Plan will support future bids for regeneration, transport and other funding opportunities.”

The plan will go through various stages of consultation and it is envisaged it will be adopted in 2026-2026.

Standish Neighbourhood Plan, which was ratified by a referendum in 2019, will inform how the Standish section of the Local Plan is configured. Standish Voice will be liaising with the council on this in the coming months.

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We still need volunteers to help at Standish Christmas Market Day on Saturday, December 3rd – or the day before with setting up or the day after with packing away.

We couldn't run the Market without the wonderful volunteers who help us out and you can do as much or as little as you are able.

If you are interested in helping us, please email [standishvoicevolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:standishvoicevolunteers@gmail.com) and we can tell you all about it, with no obligation for you to take part.

Preparations for the day are going well and we can promise a bigger and better Market Day than ever before after having to postpone it due to the pandemic for two years.

We will be sending out our Programme to you in the week before the Market, which is on from 11am to 8pm.

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More projects across Standish have been announced with money paid for by housing developers – but Wigan Council continues to drag its feet on much-needed car parking. Around £6m of funding from housebuilders will go to Wigan Council to pay for infrastructure improvements over the next few years.

The first projects will be an extension to The Line – which will start this month and is detailed below – and new smaller projects have been also agreed by Wigan Council, with hopefully more to follow.

The nature area around the ponds at Almond Brook will be improved and Robin Hill field, next to Standish High School, will have a scheme of tree and wildflower planting.

The playing fields at Ashfield Park and Southlands Rec will see drainage schemes and there will be upgrades to footpaths and the play area at Ashfield with also the provision of an outdoor gym.

However, the council has not yet announced more car parking for Standish Centre, which they have promised over a number of years. Pole Street car park will be improved, which may give a couple more spaces, but substantially more car parking was promised in 2016. Despite campaigning by Standish Voice and our councillors, the council are still yet to honour this.

Road schemes were announced earlier in summer when Wigan Council rejected the School Lane widening proposal, including a better pedestrian crossing on Market Street and traffic lights at Bradley Lane railway bridge.

Earlier schemes with developer funding were The Line improvements, Standish leisure centre, and money allocated for extensions, when necessary, to Standish's primary schools. St Wilfrid's now has extra space and Wood Fold is set to expand by 50%.

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The first project to start in this round of infrastructure improvements is an extension to The Line, which is due to start this month.

The £800,000 project will see Robin Hill Lane, between Cat I' Th' Window cottage on Almond Brook Road and the disused farm resurfaced and illuminated as a bridleway, with another section of footpath from the Robin Hill Farm East to the Bloor estate being given the same upgrade.

There will also be a zebra crossing installed on Old Pepper Lane, near Brookfield Road, and another zebra crossing on Preston Road, near Ludlow Street.

The whole plan will create a walking and cycling route to link to existing networks.

Part of the money from the project has come from developer funding, which Wigan Council has used to release more money from the Greater Manchester budget for walking and cycling.

You can see a map of the project here and more details can be found on this link:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Parking-Roads-Travel/Travel/Schemes-Proposed-for-the-Borough.aspx#StandishMineralLineextension>