

Problems with GP services in Standish

Standish Voice has alerted Wigan Council to ongoing concerns about the pressures on Standish Medical Practice, created in part due to the high level of housebuilding across Standish in recent years.

The problems were voiced by the GP practice itself in a social media message alerting patients to the huge pressures the surgery is under.

Dr Nadia Ghalayini, a partner at the practice, said a number of factors had resulted in the surgery offering a 'lesser services than we would like' but asked patients not to take frustrations out on staff.

She said one of the reasons behind the situation was a huge increase in patients at the practice due to "relentless" housebuilding in Standish.

The council now works with Healthier Wigan Partnership, which has overall responsibility for commissioning some health local services, including from GP practices, after a national shake-up of local health organisation last year.

In our latest regular meeting with Wigan Council, Standish Voice raised serious concerns with the situation and we made a statement which the local media printed. You can read the story here: <https://www.wigantoday.net/health/wigan-community-group-claims-health-bosses-failed-under-pressure-gp-practice-and-calls-for-urgent-help-3993377>

We have huge sympathy with Dr Ghalayini and her staff, who are obviously doing their best to care for their patients in very difficult circumstances. We believe the former CCG, which organised primary care, failed to respond to planning applications in the past which have heaped huge pressure on the healthcare infrastructure in Standish – and also failed to improve that infrastructure as more than 1,500 new homes were planned and built.

Wigan Council has responded to us to say that discussions are taking place on the issue and they will respond when they are concluded. We will keep you updated.

Standish Christmas Market 2023

Standish Voice has agreed that Standish Christmas Market should go ahead again this year after the hugely successful event in December – the first Market since the pandemic put the Market on hold.

Last month, the committee organised a get-together with volunteers to thank them for helping out at the Market – and to ask for feedback to make this year's Market even better.

The Globe again kindly allowed us use of the room above the pub for the 'after party' and we gathered some fantastic ideas. We also gave out certificates to businesses which sponsored the day.

We want members to also give us your feedback, good and bad, of the event and we use your suggestions when planning this year's Market. The Market Committee meets on Monday (February 30th) to start to plan the day and anyone who wishes to be involved should attend it in the room above The Globe pub at 8pm.

Standish Voice AGM

Thanks to everyone who was able to come to Standish Voice's AGM last month.

Ron Wade, Janet Monks and Paul Ogden were re-elected to the Standish Voice committee and a new committee member, Sharon Gerrard, was also elected. David King stood down from the committee and was thanked for his work since the launch of Standish Voice in 2014.

There were annual reports from Chair Gill Foster and Paul Ogden, which you can read [here](#) and [here](#), and the accounts were presented by Treasurer Karen Bliss, which you can see [here](#). All three were re-elected to their posts on the committee.

Help for the bereaved

Standish people supporting someone who has been diagnosed as palliative or is at the end of their life are being offered support and advice free of charge.

Drop-in sessions have been held in Standish, where a friendly team will be available to answer questions and discuss any learning needs carers have around palliative and end of life care.

The sessions are the first time that the Practice Development Team from Wigan and Leigh Hospice has offered training and support to informal carers.

The team – formerly known as Hospice in your Care Home – has been delivering free education and training to staff in care settings, such as nursing and residential homes, in the borough since 2015.

The next drop-in session at Standish Library, on Cross Street, take place from noon to 2pm on March 13th. Presentations on a variety of topics begin at 12pm.

For more information please contact the Practice Development Team at Wigan and Leigh Hospice either by email: pdt@wlh.org.uk or by telephone: 01942 525566.

Well done, Santa

A big round of applause to Wigan Rotary Club for raising £7,184 to help charities through its Father Christmas float which toured residential areas, including parts of Standish, in December.

Wigan Rotary Club meets on Thursdays at 12.30pm at The Owls in Standish. It welcomes new members, both men and women. If you are interested, please either ring 07813 471000, email wiganrotary1924@virginmedia.com, or via its Facebook page.

All welcome at coffee mornings

Standish Voice has been given funding from Wigan Council through Councillor Debbie Parkinson's Brighter Borough money, for monthly coffee mornings which promote friendship and aim to reduce isolation and loneliness.

The coffee mornings are held upstairs in The Globe on the third Wednesday of each month from 10am to 12 noon and are organised by Councillor Parkinson. Anyone who lives in Standish is welcome to attend and it is free of charge.

Arbor Lane plan

A planning application for five large houses has been submitted for Green Belt in Standish.

The plan would see the five detached homes built on greenfield land on Arbour Lane, next to ones recently built.

The application is for land north of Black Horse Croft, opposite Kiwi Nurseries.

Standish Voice has objected to this plan as it is proposed for the Green Belt, where no development is allowed unless there are very exceptional circumstances.

A spokesperson for Standish Voice said: "There has been a huge programme of housebuilding in Standish which has overwhelmed our infrastructure but none of it has been built on our Green Belt, which is protected.

"It is vital that the very strict rules of development in our precious Green Belt are upheld and this application is strongly refused.

"Allowing this application would give free rein to other housebuilders itching to tear up more of our green fields around Standish for yet more inappropriate development.

"We urge others who want to protect our greenfield areas to object to this proposal."

To view the application and to comment see:

<https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/.../applicationDetails.do...>

See plan of the proposed scheme...