STANDISH VOICE NEWSLETTER – JULY 2023

People in Standish can now have their say on an upgraded walking and cycling route from the village centre into Wigan.

Wigan Council is asking the public for their views on the plans, known as the Standish Western Route scheme, which would run from The Line, behind Preston Road, to the Beech Hill area.

The path follows existing roads and bridleways but would be upgraded with better surfacing and crossing points.

You can see where the route would go on the map, with a key showing how the current routes would be improved.

The consultation will run from Monday July 10th for six weeks, until August 21st.

You can view details on the council’s website here: [www.wigan.gov.uk/majorprojects](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wigan.gov.uk%2Fmajorprojects%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2NmVV3EuwqhiEQAynYG4RcsSxAf89i0nytskpCXC_FygJp7SK3s_gvcd8&h=AT14Nl-Hs6OnSgwAXY4-HD_zir9cAYFiosy867KSE4W5vQRCZs50EAABKHVYv2OkcJnip-AmnJJ9kF8nam1WJwKefJGGlijTFp5htVHWCDXj3_gujvB49SG8DqyQsVUNRbPw&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT1Zu6eC-w2iA61ID5MfHGVlR0YTd81bIBWBGo4iGOdZd_O3c5rNFdWNHl78QL2d2j0igzZfbVzxhrBdnDhGsWCl1yTj-lDOMUwcopNYSbualnwe57_m5u4TcqlqAzkYwxW6uh8VrV75cRYBl6ZKn8xzbpA0coZT_VeXbLXVtliaH4u5jMv-tq_JKjBjIB8X-hT1aUSXb9mz)

If you have any comments on the plans, please email them to Wigan Council by August 21st on [majorprojects@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:majorprojects@wigan.gov.uk) .

Standish Voice and the village’s councillors are urgently inquiring why a new traffic lights project at Bradley Lane railway bridge will now not bring better safety for pedestrians.

For several years the council has pledge to instal lights at the bridge as the increase in traffic has led to problems, and people walking through the bridge have always been at risk due it being narrow and unlit.

Plans for traffic lights there originally had a pedestrian setting but on the eve of work starting, the Wigan Council has dropped that aspect due, it says, to the length of time it would take for people to walk through, with cars queuing.

This decision has been made without consultation with local councillors, or Standish Voice, despite Wigan Council’s Cabinet agreeing to it last year.

Work to instal the lights is set to begin on July 24th with the bridge closed to traffic for two weeks while the work is done.

If you want to comment on this, please email the council’s Major Projects on majorprojects@wigan.gov.uk

Standish Voice has raised no objection to Standish Cricket Club building five homes on the edge of its land, designed to fund a new clubhouse and playing facilities.

The neighbourhood forum cannot see any policies the project breeches in Standish Neighbourhood Plan, agreed at referendum in 2019.

However, Standish Voice has asked Wigan Council’s planning department for a series of assurances over the plans, including asking for the application to go before Wigan Council’s Planning Committee so that nearby residents can make representations ahead of a decision being made.

You can read our submission to Wigan Council here: <http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/responses-to-planning-applications/>

Standish Voice is supporting a separate planning application for the improved clubhouse, new car park and training facilities.

You can read a news story on the plans here: <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/five-home-development-could-save-27116007?fbclid=IwAR0nNPmBEy4kGMSglGyc0-JldK37uCwkRYcZinbrNNVQcJRh4gCZQFIuBU8>

The zebra crossing on Market Street will be upgraded to a new-style pelican crossing this autumn, called a puffin crossing.

Pelican crossings are being phased out and the new puffin crossings have lights signalling for pedestrians on the same side of the road as the pedestrian, rather than across the road. Sensors detect if pedestrians are crossing slowly and can hold the red traffic light longer if needed and if a pedestrian presses the button but then walks off, the sensors will cancel the request, improving traffic flow.

The scheme will also include improvements to the footpaths and landscaping on Market Street and work is scheduled to begin in October.

Traffic lights on Red Rock bridge are also due to be replaced later this year.

There is still time to sponsor Standish Christmas Market and have your company’s name attached to Standish’s biggest annual event – and help support the day into the future.

If you would like to sponsor the event, please email [standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com](mailto:standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com)

Applications for indoor and outdoor stalls have now closed. Thank you to everyone who has applied. We will now go through them and if there are spaces free, we will re-advertise these from August 7th. If you have applied for a stall, we will contact you with further information.

Remember, put the Christmas Market date of Saturday, December 2nd in your diary.

St Wilfrid’s Church is still looking for donations to its £400,000 fund to completely renovate the church spire and repair its clock.

You can give through the appeals crowd-funding page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/save-standish-spire>

You can watch a news report about the appeal here:

<https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-04-25/appeal-for-money-to-help-repair-church-spire-which-could-just-snap-off>

Have you been to the Museum of Wigan Life? Wigan Council is conducting a survey asking people what they like and don’t like about the museum on Library Street.

To take part, click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/i4fhBWczei>