

STANDISH VOICE – NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

Plan to improve Standish Cricket Club through development

Standish Cricket Club has published proposals that would pay for a new brick-built pavilion, improved training facilities and a new car park – which the club says will secure its future for generations.

The club, on Green Lane, says it needs to sell off some land at its periphery, outside the playing area, for the building of five homes to pay for the much-needed improvements.

In a statement, the club says that the club's facilities have been falling into disrepair for many years as despite much work, they have not been eligible to secure grant funding, unlike other neighbouring cricket clubs.

The club says the pandemic and a burst pipe at the decaying clubhouse, which caused extensive damage, worsened the situation and "this dire position would require a radical solution if the club was going to continue to exist". They say promising young players from Standish are joining other clubs in the Wigan league due to the poor facilities at Green Lane.

The statement says proceeds of the sale of "two small and, importantly, unused sections of land" would "be utilised to replace the existing wooden/prefabricated building with purpose-built brick cricket pavilion, finance entirely new practice facilities, and upgrade the existing car park".

The club states: "Without the land disposal, the sums involved for the proposed redevelopment project are so significant, they are prohibitively expensive, to the extent that the club's 146-year history and ongoing existence are in serious doubt".

The club is asking for support but adds: "Sadly, if the proposal is rejected, it will hasten the end of cricket in the village of Standish, and it is likely the entire ground will be lost to future housing development."

A planning application lodged with Wigan Council is expected to be made public soon, when people can comment on the plans. Standish Voice will consider its response to the application when the details are published.

Apply for a stall at Standish Christmas Market

Do you want a stall at Standish Christmas Market on Saturday, December 2nd?

Applications are now open for our indoor stalls at St Wilfrid's Parish Hall, Methodist Church halls and Standish Community Centre – and outdoor stalls for Cross Street and Market Place.

This first trader application window is now open will run until July 2nd after which all applications will be processed and considered. Successful applicants will be notified by email.

Please use the links below if you would like to apply for a stall.

Indoor: **FILL OUT FORM**

Outdoor: **FILL OUT FORM**

Outdoor Hot Food: **FILL OUT FORM**

You will need copies of your Public Liability Insurance and your Risk Assessment. If you don't have your own Risk Assessment, please email standishvoicetraders@gmail.com to request a template.

Also, we still have sponsorship slots available for businesses who want to support the Market. This community event relies on sponsorship. We have Silver and Bronze sponsorship packages available – click here to see how your business can be promoted while supporting this fantastic event.

<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-Sponsorship-packages.pdf.jpg>

Standish Voice supporting residents over community footpath

Standish Voice is supporting residents in an area of Standish who have submitted a legal claim to continue to a well-used footpath which has been blocked off.

Around 50 legal forms have been submitted by people who have used the footpath between the Bradley Lane bridleway and Littleton Grove for more than 20 years as part of a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO), which has now been submitted to Wigan Council.

The council is now considering the issue but residents from the estate are confident the weight evidence is such that they will win their case. If granted, the footpath will become a public right of way and blocking it would be illegal.

One end of the path was fenced off without warning a few weeks ago in a move that has upset and angered many people living in the area.

One of the residents spoke at Standish Voice's meeting this month, saying that old people who live nearby now had to walk an extra 15 minutes up a hill to reach Standish centre due to the blocked route and one carer had now to take a similar journey four times a day to visit an elderly relative.

The resident told the meeting: "The way this has been done shows a total disregard for the community and we are determined to fight and win this."

Standish Voice's committee voted to support the DMMO application and write to Wigan Council to ask that the matter be dealt with quickly.

Anyone else who has used the path for more than 20 years can contact the residents by emailing standish.klb@outlook.com

Standish Voice understands there is very strong feeling in the local area about this issue but would urge residents not to take direct action in this matter and to leave it to the authorities to determine the future of the path.

Eatery plan is withdrawn

A planning application to turn a detached home on Cross Street into a restaurant and bar has been withdrawn. The building is opposite Standish Library.

Deputy Mayor is from Standish

Standish councillor Debbie Parkinson has been officially named as Wigan's Deputy Mayor - and will carry around a bit of Standish history on official visits.

Debbie will wear the mayoral Standish chain rather than the Wigan Deputy Mayor chain. The Standish chain - depicting the owl and the rat - was last worn before Standish Urban District Council was disbanded in 1974.

New Standish councillor Terry Mughan will be Debbie's consort for the year and next year Debbie will become the Mayor of Wigan - huge honour for Debbie, who still works in the NHS.

The Mayor's Cadet this year is also from Standish, St John's Ambulance Sgt Cameron Weir - who is in year 11 at Standish High School.

Debbie said: "It is a real honour to be Deputy Mayor and more special to be able to wear the Standish chain of office.

"I was so pleased my 87-year-old Dad managed to get here from Bradford with 2 of my 3 sisters, Mum and youngest son and partner!"

Debbie is pictured, Terry, the chain, Debbie with her dad and the new Mayor's team with relatives.

The local elections earlier this year returned Debbie, Terry and Ray Whittingham as Standish-With-Langtree councillors.

Contact your local councillors through this link:

<https://democracy.wigan.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

Upgraded public routes off The Line

The footpaths and cycleways extending from The Line in Robin Hill have had their final top-coat put on after being refurbished.

They're looking good!

The bulk of the money for the scheme came through the Greater Manchester's Mayor's Challenge Fund with a small amount coming from housing developer contributions to pump prime the project.

Swifts given new homes

Swifts have arrived in Standish after migrating from Africa and did you know the only time they land during their lifetime is to nest.

Swifts are in trouble and are red listed as a conservation concern. One reason for this is the lack of suitable nesting sites as old buildings are renovated and eaves are repaired.

In an initiative organised by Standish Voice committee member Ron Wade, students from the Base Provision at Standish Community High School have been working hard to make wooden Swift nesting boxes (from wood kindly donated by @wiganswifts) to put up around Standish.

These need to be sited at least 5 metres above ground, ideally under eaves or an overhang for protection. Boxes should face in a North Westerly or North Easterly direction to shelter them from the glare of the sun. Swifts can be attracted to a nest box by playing a recording of Swift calls which can be fun for children to do.

Another successful OwlFest

Last month, the Friends of Standish Library hosted OwlFest, a celebration of Standish's emblem, which was sponsored by Standish Voice.

Standish Voice was happy to be able to finance this fantastic fun day with money raised from Standish Christmas Market. Thanks to the Friends for organising another fantastic event.