



Standish Voice Newsletter

Dear Standish Voice member,
here is your newsletter for September...

UPDATE ON KILHEY COURT

At a recent meeting in Standish – to which Standish Voice was not invited – it was announced that a council in England had used a Neighbourhood Plan, which Standish has, to overturn a decision to house asylum seekers in a hotel.

This is untrue.

This false claim was followed up by an email to Wigan Council asking that Standish Neighbourhood Plan – which Standish Voice created, consulted upon and took to referendum – be changed to ensure Kilhey Court could not be used for



asylum seekers, as a 'solution' to the issue.

The email also asked for Wigan Council to pay for a barrister to look into this. The legal ruling which overturned a decision to house asylum seekers in a hotel in Great Yarmouth – the only instance where this has happened – was due to a policy in its council Local Plan, which is totally different to a Neighbourhood Plan in creation, adoption and updating.

A Neighbourhood Plan, for a small section of a borough, is carried out by that community – a Local Plan is carried out every 10 years or so by a local authority and covers all areas of planning and development in the whole borough.

Standish Neighbourhood Plan or Wigan Council's own Local Plan cannot be used to retrospectively change planning policy to influence the situation at Kilhey Court.

There are a number of untrue or unsubstantiated rumours circulating locally about Kilhey Court – please do your own research before believing them.

You can read the email to Wigan Council

here https://www.svm.org.uk/files/ugd/a3a822_def7be78a7a24b7c876a453ed8848c85.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1dEKkP9y8TGESToKQUMHDrFsw0RRCvtbHabMutlPsirE34V7yibbi0obY

and Wigan Council's response below...

Does the Standish Neighbourhood Plan have an impact on any potential legal routes?

“One council, Great Yarmouth, was successful in its injunction application, due to its existing Local Plan (not a Neighbourhood Plan).

However, there are crucial differences in those circumstances compared to the Kilhey Court situation, which we have outlined below.

It is important to note that even if changes are made to Local Plans, they cannot be applied retrospectively to previous decisions.

The hotel in Great Yarmouth was on the sea-front and there was a specific policy already in place in the council's Local Plan. It was designed to help boost tourism providing extra protection for hotels around changes of use. There is a Standish Neighbourhood Plan (which has similar status to a Local Plan) but it does not include any policies relating to Kilhey Court. Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans can only be amended through strict procedures set by national government, and these can be lengthy. This process can differ depending on how significant the changes are. If the changes are significant (for example, introducing a new policy into the plan) it would need to be introduced in the same way as a new plan. This would mean consultation, submission, examination and (for Neighbourhood Plans) referendum stages, which could take at least 18 to 24 months.

However, even if the plan were to be modified, it would not apply to decisions retrospectively. This means that the new amended plan would affect only future decisions, not those that have already been taken by the Home Office."

You can read this on the council's website [here](#).

For more information on Local Plans, see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-plans>

To read Standish Neighbourhood Plan, see: <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Planning/Neighbourhood-plan/Standish-plan.aspx>

Standish Voice and our councillors are continuing to work to try to overturn the Home Office decision to allow asylum seekers to be housed at Kilhey Court and we will continue to update you.

Meanwhile, please email Macdonald Hotels and the Home Office to voice your opposition, if you have not done so, via these addresses:

Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk
enquiries@macdonald-hotels.co.uk

STANDISH COMMUNITY FIREWORKS

Standish Community
FIREWORK DISPLAY
 Hosted by
 Standish Cricket Club
Friday 3rd November
 Gates open at **6:30pm**
 Fireworks display starts approximately **7:45pm**
 Bar open, hot & cold food + refreshments available
 Kiddies rides, Hook a Duck plus more...
 There's **NO** parking available, so please leave your cars at home
 Standish Cricket Club, Green Lane, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0TX
 events@standishcc.co.uk
 Residents of Green Lane, please be aware there may be some temporary disruption.
 We hope you will support your local club

only **£5** for adults
 only **£3** for kids

Standish Community Firework Display returns on Friday November 3rd at Standish Cricket Club. There will be a children's funfair, drinks, food as well as some fantastic fireworks to celebrate Bonfire Night weekend. You will also be supporting Standish Cricket Club, which has been celebrating 100 years at its Green Lane base recently. The event has been run by the club successfully for a number of years. See the poster for more details...

HELP NAME STANDISH'S NEW 'PARK'

Standish Voice is asking our members and the public if they would come up with a name for a new 'park' in Standish.

Robin Hill field was protected as Local Green Space in Standish Neighbourhood Plan, which came in in 2019 and runs until 2030. The triangular field, next to The Line is one of the only significant areas of open green space in north Standish after the huge housebuilding programme.

It is owned by Wigan Council and for a time was leased by Standish High as a sports pitch. The school does not now use it and we have been trying to persuade the council for a several years to upgrade the field with tree planting, wildflower seeding and regular maintenance – while preserving the open nature of the field for walkers, dog owners and other activities.

People call this area Robin Hill Field, Almond Brook Field, the School

Field or merely “that field near The Line”.

Can you suggest a fitting name for it with the word ‘Park’ at the end, to help us fix it permanently in the consciousness of the council that it is a public open space which should not be sold off for housing – though there are no plans to do this.

People have suggested Robin Hill Park or Almond Brook Park (though this may be confused with Almond Brook pond park area further along The Line). If you have a suggestion, please email us at standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com



CAN YOU GIVE A CHRISTMAS MARKET PRIZE?

Only two months to go before Standish Christmas Market and we are finalising our Christmas Market raffle, which raises money for the event.

We have been given some great prizes from generous local companies but we are looking for a main prize – with a value of around £150 – to take top billing on our raffle tickets.

We will give the company publicity in return and they will be invited to pull out the top prize-winning ticket

at an event the week after the Market.

This year, tickets will only be sold on the day of the Market – on Saturday, December 2nd – so keep an eye out for our raffle ticket sellers around the Market on the day.

Applications for stalls have closed and we have had a fantastic response again from traders, with three indoor stall sites full again this year: St Wilfrid's Parish Hall, Standish Methodist Church halls and Standish Community Centre.

We will be officially launching the Market during October with details of some of the great things that will be happening – but we'll also keep a few surprises up our sleeves for nearer the time.



FUNDRAISING CHURCH CALENDAR

Standish's St Wilfrid's Church has its own 2024 calendar with wonderful photos of the building and fascinating information about its history.

The calendar is limited edition – so be quick to snap one up – and is raising money for Save Standish Spire Appeal, which Standish Voice supports.

The church is currently raising funds to renovate its Victorian spire and fix its clock. Architects have discovered the need for vital repairs to the 130ft spire – a landmark for Standish and the surrounding area for more than 150 years since it was built on to the original medieval building.

The calendar can be bought at St Wilfrid's Parish Office, which is open from Monday to Friday, 10am to noon.

To contribute to the appeal, follow this link to the church's Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/save-standish-spire> or send a cheque with 'Spire' on the back to The Parish Office, St Wilfrid's Parish Hall, Church Street, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0JT.

You can see some of the images from the calendar below...



NEXT STANDISH VOICE MEETING

Standish Voice's next monthly public meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 17th at 7.45pm, in a private room in Albert's, on School Lane. Our members and anyone who lives or works in Standish are welcome to attend and speak.

We are hopeful our councillors will be in attendance to update the meeting on various issues.



12,000 FOLLOWERS

Standish Voice now has 12,000 followers on its Facebook page! Thank-you to everyone for contributing to this page and abiding by our page rules.

In the nine years the Standish Voice Facebook page has been running, only a dozen people have been banned from commenting on the page – which shows how respectfully people interact on it.

Our rules are on our website: www.standishvoice.co.uk.

WELL DONE, HARWOODS

Standish Voice would like to congratulate the team at Standish's Harwoods Patisserie who were sadly pipped at the post in the final of top TV cookery show, Bake-Off: The Professionals.

After winning every heat bar one that they appeared in during the 10 weeks leading up to the Grand Final, they deserved the trophy. In the final, the Harwoods team, Andrew Harwood and his friend Raf (pictured), were against tough competition from two top London hotels – The Dorchester and The Landmark London, which won – but Harwoods proudly flew the flag for the North... and especially Standish!

Andrew runs his patisserie with wife Sarah on High Street and brought in friend Raf to star in the prestigious Channel 4 show.

Brilliant work! You may not have won but you entertained us week after week and did your business and Standish proud with your superb skills!



NEW POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER

With Remembrance commemorations fast approaching and The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal soon beginning, there is a new Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) for Standish.

She is Maggie Bate, who has stepped in as a volunteer and gives what free time she has to help The Royal British Legion to raise funds for the appeal.

Any requirements for wreaths and any other Poppy Appeal items or information can be obtained from Maggie.

Her phone number is 01942 824518 (with an answering machine to leave messages) or mobile 079139 67364. Her email is nags1hols2@hotmail.co.uk

If you no longer wish to be sent this regular newsletter, please email us asking us to take your name off our database. You can still be a member. If you would like to cancel your membership of Standish Voice, please also email us. To do that all that, click [here](#)

BEST WISHES, STANDISH VOICE COMMITTEE



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