

## KILHEY COURT WILL CLOSE TO ASYLUM SEEKERS

The Government has confirmed to Wigan MP Lisa Nandy that Kilhey Court will close its doors to asylum seekers.

Confirmation of the shutting of the building to asylum seekers came on Friday after a note was passed to the MP by Immigration minister Robert Jenrick, pictured below.



However, Wigan Council has not yet been given details of the closure, including when it will be - likely to be January or March - but hopefully that will arrive in the coming week.

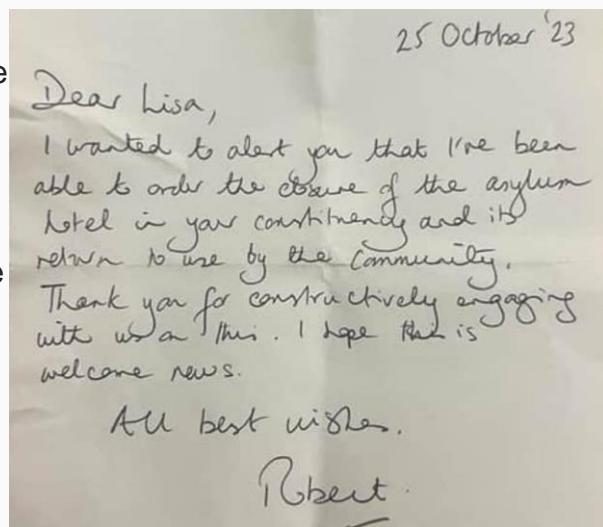
This decision will be welcomed across Standish.

This historic building, which has been an asset to village life for two generations, was always totally unsuitable for this activity – especially as Standish already has one hotel which has been used by asylum seekers since 2015.

The Government's decision to not use Kilhey Court as a hostel, only two months after it closed as a hotel, shows how wrong-headed it was to do this in the first place.

We would like to thank everyone who has worked hard to put pressure on the Government, the Home Office, Serco and Macdonald Hotels, including councillors, Wigan Council, our MP, members of Standish Voice who sent emails and members of the public who signed petitions. Representations from the police and health authorities were also made at a high level and Standish Voice and Standish's councillors have had frequent meetings with Wigan Council on the matter.

We hope Macdonald hotels uses the money it has earned through this contract to refurbish Kilhey Court and restore it to its place as the best hotel in the



Wigan area – and it can again be a venue that Standish can be proud of. At Standish Voice's September meeting, our committee agreed to engage a planning consultancy to study all the planning applications given permission at Kilhey Court since it was converted from a private residential home to a hotel in 1983.

There are 16 planning applications, all with conditions, and an independent expert has been going through all these documents to ensure the hotel is complying with these regulations and the planning status of the premises. Standish Voice has paid for this work from its own resources – we do not receive money from Wigan Council, just our own fundraising – and we will be sharing the findings with Wigan Council.

Standish Voice put in a Freedom of Information request to the Home Office asking for the updated criteria the Home Office has given to Serco, which has commissioned Kilhey Court, in terms of the requirements of property used for this purpose. This response was passed to Wigan Council at the start of this month to help the council in its efforts to argue that Kilhey Court is wholly unsuitable for this activity.

At Standish Voice's monthly public meeting in October, members of the public asked the three Standish councillors questions about the situation, including about policing.

We will be discussing the situation at our next public meeting at Albert's on Tuesday, November 21st at 7.45pm. All who live or work in Standish are welcome to attend.

[To read a news story on this, click here](#)

## **OUR CHRISTMAS MARKET WILL BE EVEN MORE FESTIVE THIS YEAR**

Standish Christmas Market returns on Saturday December 2nd – just five weeks away – bigger and better than ever, with stalls, attractions, a children's funfair, live entertainment and food and drink.

The Market has been organised annually by Standish Voice since 2016 – with a pause during the pandemic –

*Standish*  
**CHRISTMAS  
MARKET**

and thousands of people flock to our village's historic Market Place and surrounding streets for the festive bash.



We are promising more attractions, more venues taking part, and special guests making an appearance on the live entertainment stage on St Wilfrid's Parish Church car park. The event begins at 11am with music from bands, singers and school choirs running through to 8pm, next to a drinks marquee where you can buy beers, cocktails, prosecco and seasonal mulled wine.

There will be outdoor stalls on Cross Street and food stalls on Market Place, and four indoor craft halls around the village where you can buy your Christmas presents – St Wilfrid's Church Hall, two at Standish

Methodist Church and at Standish Community Centre. All the stall pitches are sold out.

This year, the popular Snow Globe returns to outside the Library, as well as the Living Nativity next to the Methodist Church, and Father Christmas inside the library.



There will also be naughty elves running around the village and a full-sized Grinch entertaining the crowds.

There is also the Christmas Trail where families can spot cuddly toy penguins in Standish shop windows as they walk around the village and there will be a



children's funfair on the car park of The Lychgate pub in the heart of the Market. Other Standish venues are also joining in, too, with the popular Christmas Karaoke at the Unity Club, entertainment at Standish Social Club, and a family carol service in St Wilfrid's Church.

Companies and organisations from across Standish and beyond have got behind the community event with sponsorship, to make it even bigger and better, with Gold sponsors Ainscough Industrial Services, Inglenorth, Gerrards Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners, Asylum bar, Holts brewery, and Top Grades tuition.



Standish councillor Debbie Parkinson will officially open the Market in her capacity as Wigan's Deputy Mayor.

This year, a free shuttle bus will run around the main roads of Standish at the

beginning and end of the Market, with details to be posted nearer the time.

Standish Voice Events Lead Kathy Robertson, who chairs the Standish Christmas Market Committee, said: "We are really looking forward to Standish Christmas Market. It is always such a fantastic event for the community to come together and celebrate Christmas. Our committee has been working all year to bring Standish another festive celebration and we are confident people will think it is the best one yet. It will be brilliant!

"We have had amazing support from our businesses who are sponsoring the event, giving raffle prizes, involved with the Christmas trail or putting something on themselves – so a big thank-you to all of them. It is going to be a wonderful day and is a great way for our whole community to have a seasonal knees up!" To follow all the updates on the Market over the coming weeks and be first to know what is happening, follow our Standish Christmas Market Facebook page and event page [here](#).

Booking is essential so get your tickets at the library on the dates below for the ever popular Santa's Grotto.

HO HO HO - ATTENTION PLEASE!



GET YOUR TICKETS FOR THE 2023 SANTA'S GROTTO AT  
STANDISH LIBRARY ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND,  
10 AM- 4 PM.

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD IN STANDISH LIBRARY ON THE  
FOLLOWING DAYS AND TIMES:

FRIDAY 3RD NOV AT 2:30-4:30 PM  
SATURDAY 4TH NOV AT 10:30 AM- 12:30 PM

£4.00 PER TICKET

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL



Friends of Standish Library

[To read a news story on the Christmas Market, click here](#)

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON DEVELOPMENT IN STANDISH

You can have your say on future development in Standish at a face-to-face meeting with Wigan Council as part of consultation on a new Local Plan. The borough-wide plan – which will be a blueprint for development across Wigan and Leigh – will run until about 2039 or 40.

The council carried out a first stage of consultation last autumn and now it has arranged meetings across the borough, including Standish, where people can have their say on issues such as housing, open space, biodiversity, and retail and employment areas.

The council says:

“Each workshop will begin with a short presentation (10 minutes) to set the scene, and then it will be open for discussion around those issues. There will also be the



opportunity to raise anything else people want to. Each workshop will have a primary focus on the town concerned. The workshops will all begin at 7pm and run through to no later than 9pm.”

Standish’s meeting will be: Thursday 16th November, at Standish Community Centre, at 7pm. The council is encouraging everyone to pre-register, which you can do [here](#).

Standish Voice has already been in discussion with Wigan Council over the plan and will be urging the council to respect Standish’s Neighbourhood Plan and its policies and keep Standish’s Green Belt intact.

The council is now consulting on another area of the plan, Options and Preferences, which you can access [here](#).

It includes a main consultation document and an accompanying map book. On each you can click on ‘bubbles’ in the page to both view comments that others have made and leave your own comments. It will be anonymous on the webpage. You can also view paper versions of the documents in Standish Library.





## **FLYING THE FLAG FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Well done to the volunteers who helped to put up the flags in Standish Village Centre ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

The Remembrance Sunday parade is on November 12th with a service at the Cenotaph to remember the fallen. The Cenotaph will be lit up at night ahead of the day.

## **LATEST STAGE IN GREATER MANCHESTER PLAN**

A Greater Manchester-wide plan for development is entering its next stage - but no changes are being made in Standish and its Green Belt is still intact. The latest consultation phase of the Places For Everyone document - a blueprint for change across GM, including Wigan, until 2039 - has been launched on modifications to the original plan which have been ordered by planning inspectors.

You can comment on the changes through the link below but there have been no changes to policies in Standish.

Once this stage is cleared, nine local authorities in GM, including Wigan, will vote on the plan.

The document identifies Green Belt across Standish where no development should take place and Wigan's own Local Plan, now in creation, should follow suit - though we know landowners and house builders will be arguing otherwise.

See the Places For Everyone plan [here...](#)





**Congratulations to Standish's Busy Bees gardeners who have won Outstanding Britain In Bloom awards for their hard work on their gardens in Standish village centre and on Almond Brook Road.**

## **REMEMBER, REMEMBER STANDISH COMMUNITY FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

**Don't forget Standish Community Firework Display this Friday (November 3rd).**

**There will be a children's funfair, food and drink as well as some fantastic fireworks to celebrate Bonfire Night weekend.**

**Tickets are still on sale in The Globe and in Copper Vines. If buying in advance, please bring cash - and exact money would be appreciated.**

**You can buy tickets on the night - please leave your car at home.**

A vibrant background image of a firework display with golden sparks and bursts against a dark night sky.

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](mailto: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