

## Standish Voice newsletter – February 2024

### Support us in objecting to yet more housing

A planning application has been submitted for 57 new homes in Standish – and we would like you to help us object to it.

There has been too much housing too quickly in Standish and infrastructure and services have failed to keep up with the huge population increase over the past 8 or 9 years.

The latest planning application is the first new scheme for greenfield ‘safeguarded’ land since Standish Neighbourhood Plan came into force in 2019 and Standish Voice believes this new plan breaches policies within it.

Persimmon wants to build 57 homes, a quarter classed as ‘affordable’, on green fields behind 71 Pepper Lane, a disused riding stables. Entry would be via an access road onto Pepper Lane after the stable buildings have been demolished.

We believe the application should be rejected by Wigan Council as it adds extra demand to already over-stretched infrastructure and services, especially the road and health system, which have become far worse over the last decade.

The scheme would reduce biodiversity in the north of Standish and erode further the habitat of endangered species such as great crested newt and toad, which Persimmon admits are on the site.

The road layout is dangerous, being on a blind bend, with Pepper Lane already a fast road from the M6 and is regularly subject to speeding.

Wigan borough has an adequate supply of housing for the next five years and more building in Standish is not needed.

Please object to the plan – if you live in other parts of Standish, please also object as ‘safeguarded land’, which this site is classed as, is also present in other areas such as Rectory Lane and Chorley Road.

To view the plan, and to comment or object to the application, follow this link:

<https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S5NI36RR0C800&activeTab=summary>

You will need to register to do so, but this only takes a few minutes.

Objections need to be made in your own words but only these valid ‘planning’ reasons should be used:

- The proposals do not comply with Standish Neighbourhood Plan, voted in by 93% of voters in Standish in that it cannot be evidenced that the development can be accommodated in our already overloaded infrastructure and services, especially highways and health, including GP and dental services. The planning application also does not comply with a Standish Neighbourhood Plan policy which states that any proposed development next to a Green Corridor needs to show a net gain in biodiversity, and this proposal significantly reduces it.
- Loss of biodiversity and natural habitats, especially in relation to protected and endangered species such as great crested newts and toads which are present on the site
- Highway safety issues, such as traffic generation, road capacity, means of access, visibility, and effects on pedestrians and cyclists
- Effects on individual buildings – such as overlooking, loss of light, overshadowing, visual intrusion, loss of privacy, noise, disturbance

- Effects on existing tree cover and hedgerows in the area with a reduction in native shrubs and trees.

Representations need to be made by the end of February.

For more information, please email [standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com](mailto:standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com)

### **Please help us plant trees to create Standish's new park**

We have been working with Greater Manchester's City of Trees and Wigan Council to improve biodiversity in a field next to The Line – and preserve it for the future.

We want to make it into Standish's newest park and there is a tree planting session this Wednesday (February 14<sup>th</sup>) when you can help out.

The triangular field opposite Standish High School is being improved with wildflowers and trees, continuing to keep the open aspect of the field but giving it more the feel of a park. Wildflower seeds have been sown and trees will be planted between 10am and 3pm – just turn up to help.

City of Trees, an organisation which plants trees across Greater Manchester, is leading the planting and will supply all equipment, including gloves and spades and all the planting materials. Please wear sturdy boots and old clothes that you don't mind getting muddy!

Please come to support this project – we want to make sure this land, which was protected as Local Green Space in Standish Neighbourhood Plan, is kept for the community and not sold off.

### **Standish Voice AGM**

**Thanks to everyone who came to Standish Voice's Annual General Meeting a few weeks ago.**

**There were annual reports from Chair Gill Foster and Vice Chair Paul Ogden, and a presentation of the accounts by Treasurer Karen Bliss. To read these, follow the links below:**

[Chair's report](#)

[Vice Chair's report](#)

[Accounts](#)

**Existing committee members Gill Foster, Karen Bliss, the Rev Andrew Holliday and Nicky Ogden were re-elected to the committee and previous committee member and former councillor Judith Atherton was also elected. Each will serve a three-year term before seeking re-election.**

### **Wigan Council to look at crossing safety after accident**

Wigan Council will look at the year-old zebra crossing on Preston Road after a schoolgirl was injured when she was hit by a car while on it.

Standish Voice raised concerns after her mum used our Facebook page to call for safety measures at the crossing following the accident, in which her 15-year-old daughter suffered a broken arm.

The crossing was part of the cycle lane development installed by the council 12 months ago and, according to reports, has seen several near misses for pedestrian users since.

The mum said: "Since this crossing has been installed there has been many near misses where vehicles just don't stop or stop at the very last minute. The road is too fast and is used as a speedway. The crossing either needs to have speed bumps installed either side or it or changing to a pelican crossing for the safety of the public."

The council will now investigate, including looking at signage.

### **Standish Christmas Market will return in 2024**

Standish Christmas Market will return later this year and will be held on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Planning Standish's Voice's festive community celebration begins later this month with our first Standish Christmas Market Committee meeting. New organising committee members are very welcome to join us. Please email [standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com](mailto:standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com) for details.

Trader applications will open between 12th May and 7th July and a second application window will be 4th August to 15th September.

To pre-register your interest in trading at this year's Market, follow this link: [SCM 2024 Expression of Interest](#)

Put it in your diary now!

### **Improvements to Standish bus services**

There is good news for anyone who uses the bus service early or late in the north of Standish.

Greater Manchester's Bee Network 362 buses have been extended to Pepper Lane on the first three and last service of the day after intervention from Standish Voice.

When the new services launched last autumn, adding extra 362 buses between Wigan and Chorley, the earliest and last new services only ran from and to Standish police station.

While Standish Voice welcomed the improvements, which now meant buses from the village could get people to the earliest trains to Manchester and Liverpool, we asked Wigan Council to request that Transport for Greater Manchester start and end the new services at the northern boundary of Standish.

Those services have now been extended as part of a raft of minor changes to the Bee Network, so they will start and end at the Pepper Lane stop on Preston Road.

You can view the new timetable here:

[https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/2F5rDfXrCjWY8Tehywj8wU/230da9f9c5ba79a9b50359756c5ba0ca/362\\_23-SC-0681.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1eU2LZovKU6JpWJk5xt4d2ppcygPmsMzepY3aJE6ZkOR8tA5jhuxQfc7s](https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/2F5rDfXrCjWY8Tehywj8wU/230da9f9c5ba79a9b50359756c5ba0ca/362_23-SC-0681.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1eU2LZovKU6JpWJk5xt4d2ppcygPmsMzepY3aJE6ZkOR8tA5jhuxQfc7s)

### **Find info in a new Wigan Directory**

Wigan Council has created a new directory of services and community organisations which you can tap into.

Our Town Directory brings together local support and things to do in the community whether you are living, visiting or working in Wigan borough.

Find it here: <https://directory.wigan.gov.uk/kb5/wigan/fsd/home.page>

### **New litter group launches**

A new Facebook group has been launched to help make Standish a tidier place to be. Standish Litter Pickers is a group which wants to get organised to help Standish to look spotless.

It promotes picking litter yourselves and also wants to organise litter picking events.

They say: "Love where you live. If we all do our bit, we can keep our village and green spaces litter free."

Find them here, [Standish Litter Pickers](#).