

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2025

Finishing touches to The Line 2

The upgrading of the former Standish Mineral Line from the village to Beech Hill is being finalised this week.

A top coat surface is being added the tarmac route from Standish Wood Lane to Gidlow Lane which can now be used by wheelchairs, pushchairs and cyclists, as well as walkers and horse riders.

The council is now looking at solar lighting at points along the route and the possibility of bins at the start and end of the track, where they can be accessed to be emptied by council workers.

The Line from Standish to Almond Brook was improved several years ago and has been a huge success, encouraging more people to walk and cycle into the village centre from new estates and to also enjoy it for a stroll, dog walk or run. Hopefully, the new 'Phase 2' will be as popular.

The council is now looking at other routes off The Line to upgrade in a 'Phase 3' project and we will tell you about these when they are finalised. We have urged the council to look at other footpaths and bridleways in Standish to improve as well. Please tell us of any you would like to see improved by emailing standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com

Plan to knock down care home for older people's homes

A closed Standish care home would be knocked down for 11 apartments for the over-55s in new proposals.

Standish-based elderly care provider Millennium Care will need planning permission to build the one and two-bed units, called Wilfrid's, at 209 Wigan Road.

Windsor House care home closed last year and the company says the development would also include two sleepover suites for visiting relatives.

The company, which runs dementia care facilities on Chorley Road, said: "Our vision is to make a meaningful contribution to the perception of what it means to age well in Standish and Wigan.

"Accompanied by our Standish Care Village, Wilfrid's seeks to work in tandem with an established care provider and offering where needed, a continuity of care providing peace of mind and reassurance of being part of a wider community."

Millennium Care is asking for feedback on its website and you can find out more here:
<https://www.millennium-care.co.uk/wilfreds/>

The images show Windsor House and what the new apartments would look like.

Pub applies for late night licence

A Standish pub wants to extend its opening times to allow drinking and entertainment further into the early hours.

Fifteens @ Standish has lodged a request with Wigan Council to push back its closing time until 3.30am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

If the request is granted, the pub would sell alcohol to drink on and off the premises until 3am on those days and recorded music would also be allowed until 3am.

The High Street pub, part of the local Fifteens chain, is also asking to open from 10am on those days.

You can read the licensing application here:

https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Business/Licensing-Permits-Registrations/Entertainment-Alcohol-Late-Night-Refreshments/Premises-Pending-Apps.aspx?fbclid=IwY2xjawJTNQpleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHZ2uHZ5fDfD4eyEH693_WWIsd67edq1AmgirilguOLxpETE-8f2ZpQJxpw_aem_g0MQDCu_1cGE9mCz0cbjNw

Wood Fold expansion gets the go ahead

Wigan Council has given the green light to increasing the size of Wood Fold Primary school, which is set to expand by half as much again - despite concerns by the governors and nearby residents.

A planning application will now be lodged for permission to carry out building work at the school during the summer holidays to allow for up to 90 more places.

Wigan Council's Cabinet has approved a proposal to admit 90 children each year in three forms starting from September – up from 60 in two forms – due to the huge increase in Standish's population over the past decade. The school site on Green Lane will have a maximum capacity of 630 places by 2029.

In a recent public consultation about the proposals, only six responses favoured the plans, with 45 against, most stating worries about increased congestion.

For a news story on this, see:

https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/school-village-soaring-population-66m-31247826?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=I

Quakers Place Car Park ready for its upgrade

In early Summer, the car park will be redesigned with a new surface and lined out in parking bays – adding 12 extra spaces, including disabled bays. It will remain free of charge but limited to a three-hour stay on Monday to Saturday to help increase the turnover of vehicles.

Standish businessman and charity campaigner is the next High Sheriff

Martin, who still lives in the village, was instrumental in launching Standish's My Life charity and Wigan Youth Zone.

After a lifetime of helping charities, Martin was made a CBE in 2016 and he continues to lend his expertise to local causes, including the successful Save Standish Spire appeal.

Martin is pictured with Standish's Debbie Parkinson, current Mayor of Wigan.

Great to see people from our village representing us all in regional civic roles.

New Tree Preservation Order for the Robin Hill area

Wigan Council is planning tree preservation orders on Standish land near to where new housing is proposed.

Individual trees and groups of trees would be protected if the orders are passed for land off Pepper Lane and Robin Hill Drive.

The list includes one tree near the proposed entrance to a new 57-home estate off Pepper Lane which was rejected by the planning committee in October.

Developers Persimmon have until April 8th to appeal that decision but Wigan Council has been told by them to expect it. No word has come on an appeal against the refusal of planning application for a new junction on Chorley Road, also declined by councillors in October.

Standish road named after women's rights campaigner

A Standish man who played a major role in securing votes for women a century ago now has a new road in the village named after him.

Thorley Smith was born and raised in Church Street and is one of only three men to feature in the nation's 100 Suffragette pioneers.

Thorley was the first person to stand as an MP on a platform backing the Suffragette movement. He didn't win the election but pushed forward the cause of votes for women.

Thorley was born 1873 and was the first Labour councillor on Wigan Council before standing an MP – and pressed for women's voting rights.

Standish Voice asked for a road in one of the new developments to take his name and Thorley Close is now on the golf course estate, off Rectory Lane.

Have you seen off-road vehicles causing problems?

Have you seen off road vehicles being ridden illegally in Standish? Report them to a special police unit.

The flyer gives information on how to do it. The more reports police get from an area, the more they are able to target it.

Let's stamp this out in Standish.