

Standish Voice Newsletter

Dear Standish Voice member,
here is the newsletter for April...



NO PLANS TO BUILD ON STANDISH'S GREEN BELT

There are NO plans to change Standish's Green Belt in the upcoming Wigan Local Plan – land where no new development, including housing, is allowed.

Several landowners across Standish would like to build homes on their land – but Standish Voice has successfully argued over the past several years that our Green Belt should not be touched for the foreseeable future.

This was accepted in the now-agreed Greater Manchester strategic development plan and also in the first draft of Wigan Local Plan, which runs until 2040.

There are greenfield areas within Standish that are allocated to build on, but none in the Green Belt. Reports that areas of our Green Belt will soon be built on are not correct.

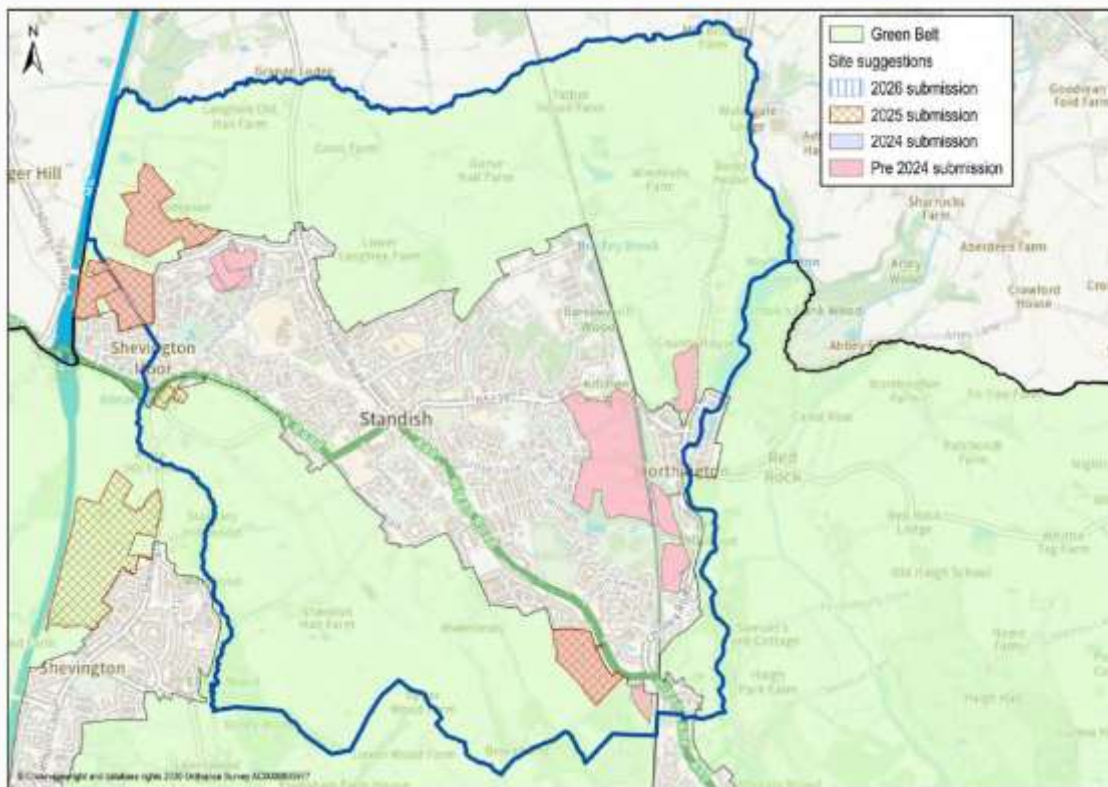
Developers and landowners regularly submit their sites for consideration to Wigan Council for building land, including fields at Standish Hall Farm and Thompson House Farm, and also land off Wigan Road and Chorley Road – but none have been accepted to build on in Wigan Local Plan.

The first consultation on the new Local Plan closed a year ago and the next draft will go out for people to comment on later this year. We know landowners will try to change the plan to include their sites, but Wigan Council has said they will not accept any change to our Green Belt.

Eventually, a Planning Inspector will decide on what is contained in the Local Plan – and when the time comes, Standish Voice will make representations at the public inquiry to say that land in Standish currently earmarked for housing is more than enough.

This land for new housing includes sites off Lurdin Lane, Rowton Rise and Robin Hill – designated for development back in the 1980s – and originally called 'Safeguarded Land'. Other Safeguarded Land in Standish has already been built

on over the past decade, with around 1,700 new homes constructed. You can see here maps of sites that landowners have asked to be included in the new Local Plan and previous Greater Manchester plan, but none of these sites in the Green Belt have been accepted. You can also see a map of the Green Belt and Safeguarded Land in Standish Neighbourhood Area. If you have any questions or concerns about building in Standish's Green Belt, please email standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com or message us and we can give you accurate, impartial information.





COUNCIL INVESTIGATES ILLEGALLY FELLED TREES

Wigan Council is investigating after a group of trees was illegally felled on a Standish development site.

The trees were cut down on Persimmon Homes' housing site on Pepper Lane despite having a Tree Protection Order assigned to them.

Standish Voice and the village's councillors demanded the formal investigation after contractors for Persimmon Homes felled the trees, despite clear maps of which trees were protected on the greenfield site. At first, the council said the destruction was a 'mistake' and no further action would be taken, but then decided an investigation should take place with the possibility of a prosecution being brought.

Residents alerted Standish Voice to potential illegal felling of trees on the site, which was passed at appeal for 57 homes. The council was contacted immediately but did not respond in time for three trees, pictured below, to be cut down.

Tree Preservation Orders were put on individual and clumps of trees on the site ahead of the planning application being decided to ensure they were protected. Anyone flouting a TPO can be handed an unlimited fine by magistrates.

A spokesperson for Standish Voice said: "It is heartbreaking that TPOs were put in place on this site only for Persimmon and their contractors to

fail to comply with them and these large, mature trees destroyed.

“We contacted the council in good time for them to come out and inspect what was taking place but three trees were butchered before they acted.

“The council told us that this incident was a ‘genuine mistake’ but that is not good enough. There should be a proper investigation and prosecutions if TPO trees were cut down. If you went through a red light by ‘mistake’ you would expect to be fined.”

Construction has now started at the site and people will meet temporary traffic lights on Pepper Lane for five weeks while drainage works take place. The traffic lights will move around the Hyatt Crescent and Robin Hill Drive area with two- and three-way lights in operation as the works take place.



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

FAREWELL TO LONG-SERVING COUNCILLOR

Long-serving Standish councillor Ray Whittingham will step down at the next election after 10 years of service in the Town Hall.

Conservative Ray – alongside Standish’s two Labour councillors Debbie Parkinson and Terry Mugan – has worked with, and supported, Standish Voice throughout his time in office. He has also helped numerous local causes, including Standish Christmas Market and Save Standish Spire appeal – all with his trademark good humour.

Ray said: “After 10 years of service as Conservative councillor for Standish with Langtree, I have decided not to seek re-election in May. I have decided that now is the right time to step down. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving the people of Standish.”

We would like to thank Ray for his hard work, advice and support over the years and wish him very best wishes for the future.

The election takes place on May 7th and you can see the candidates for the wards that cover Standish and surrounding areas [here](#).





PLANNING RULES INVESTIGATED AT FARM

An investigation of planning rules at a Standish farm is being conducted by Wigan Council.

The council's planning enforcement team is looking at whether regulations have been breached at Standish Hall Farm, following months of dispute with nearby residents.

There has been a large increase in vehicle activity on the routes around the farm over the past several months – and, recently, tracks to the farm have been tarmacked by the farmer's contractors.

Standish Voice has asked the council whether activity on the farm requires planning permission for a change of use. In general, agricultural activities are allowed and do not need planning permission. However, if the scale and nature of the activity is such that a council deems it to be industrial processing, storage or distribution, or waste management, rather than farming, a planning application for change of use is usually required.

Residents and councillors are also in discussion with the council on issues in

relation to the tarmacking of the routes along Beech Walk and the track from Arbour Lane.

Residents, walkers and horse riders have made a series of complaints to Standish Voice, as well as directly to the council and local police, about a large increase in heavy vehicles using the routes and the speed that they travel at. A spokesperson for Standish Voice said: “We are very worried that the new surface on the tracks around the farm has effectively turned these historic and popular walking routes and bridleways into roads that could support yet more heavy traffic.

“The frequency of vehicle movements to and from the farm has exploded over the past several months and this intensification has caused huge concern.

“Farms are obviously businesses and we have several in Standish that carry on their activities without impacting nearby residents and upsetting sections of the community.

"About 10 years ago, a planning application for a new business at Standish Hall Farm was refused due to the number of vehicle movements it would have caused. The current amount of vehicle movements now is much more than was envisaged with that application.

“Like everyone else in society, farmers need to comply with planning regulations and we have asked Wigan Council to carry out a thorough investigation as to whether planning law is being breached. We are worried that new activity at the farm is creating a highly anti-social situation.”



MORE PLACES AT STANDISH HIGH SCHOOL

Standish Community High has announced that there will be additional

Year 7 places at the school from September.

The school said: “If you’re still looking for a secondary school place, this is a fantastic opportunity to join our inclusive, caring and high-achieving school community. Our students thrive as successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens in an environment that is friendly, calm, happy and focused on learning.”

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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