

Standish Voice Newsletter

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



EXPANSION PLANS FOR STANDISH SCHOOL

Plans to expand a Standish school with nine more classrooms have been submitted.

Wood Fold Primary School will increase in size by half as much again

– despite concerns from the governors – if the application is approved.

Wood Fold would then take 90 children each year – up from 60 – due to the huge increase in Standish’s population over the past decade.

The application shows the school site on Green Lane being enlarged to take the extra children gradually to a maximum capacity of 630 places by 2029.

The scheme includes a new single-storey, stand-alone teaching block with solar panels and multi-use games area, together with landscaping.

A council report says projections show that from next year Wood Fold, which is judged as Outstanding by Ofsted, would become even more oversubscribed, but the governors have questioned its figures.



A consultation on the proposals showed just six responses in favour, with 46 against, most stating concerns about increased traffic congestion. But a council report on the plans states that the expansion would have “minimal impact” on the road network.

The report states: “The teaching block will accommodate nine classrooms, an

activity studio, group rooms, offices along with washrooms and storage... The existing playground is to be removed and a new playground is to be provided to the north side of the new building to the existing banked grass area.

“The design of the new teaching block, playgrounds and games courts have been carefully designed to ensure that the school playing fields remain unaffected, while the provision of the multi-use games courts are of significant benefit to the delivery of sport and recreation at Wood Fold Primary School.

“Following a review of the anticipated trip generation potential of the proposed scheme, a judgement on the impact of the additional vehicles associated with the school expansion considers that the extra vehicle trips would have minimal impact on the operation of the junctions assessed and could be accommodated on the local highway network.”

Standish Voice has written to the council asking it to produce a realistic transport plan for the development, to include highways and parking.

Images show where the block would go and designs.

See the plan here: <https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SZ4QOYRRGSP00&activeTab=summary>





STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET TO RETURN

Standish Christmas Market is officially hitting double digits this year and will return for its 10th anniversary on Saturday, December 5th.

If you want to shape the festivities, please join our organising committee now.

Email us at standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com

NURSERY PLAN FOR HISTORIC FORMER PUB

A former Standish pub will become a nursery school if planning permission is passed.

The historic Hesketh Arms building would be retained and renovated into a pre-school for a maximum of 57 children, aged from babies to 4 years old.

The Grade II-listed building – which dates from the 1700s – has been a

residence since the pub closed in the 2000s.

The nursery, operated by Beyond The Nest which has another nursery in St Helens, says between 8 and 13 staff will work there. The application states that traffic and parking problems would be minimal and 9 parking spaces are included in the plans.

A report states that the building (pictured below) “has been identified as an ideal site due to the excellent public transportation and highways linkages and the current shortage of nurseries within the immediate vicinity, coupled with the proximity of a wide range of family-sized accommodation that will no doubt require nursery accommodation now or in the near future”.

People can comment on the plans on Wigan Council’s planning portal here: <https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=T813NXRRLJL00&activeTab=summary>





NEW PATH FOR STANDISH ALLOTMENTS

Standish allotments have been given a free makeover with a new path by a Wigan Council contractor.

The work has been done in association with the upgrade of Quakers Place car park by Atherton-based Argyle North West.

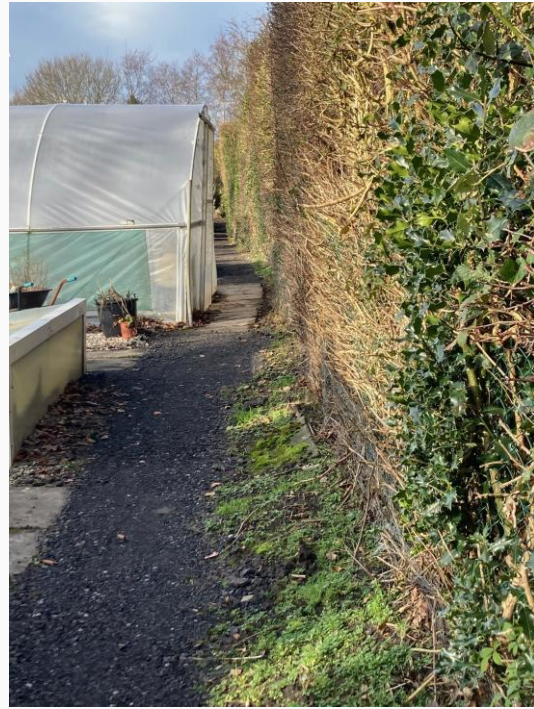
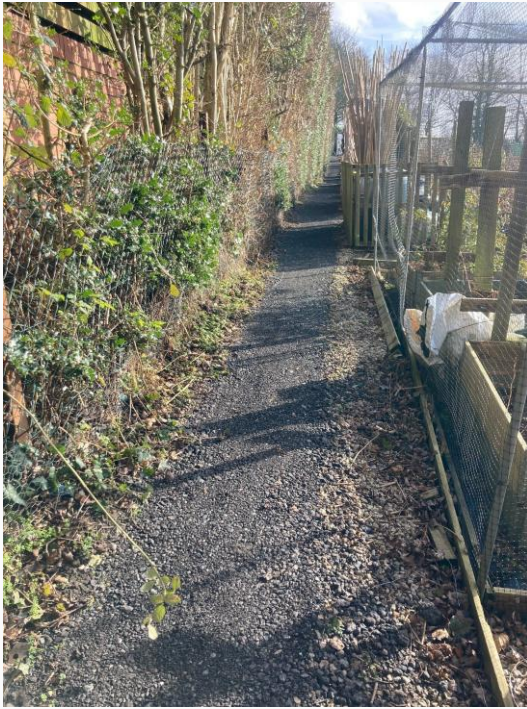
As part of the social value aspect of the work, Argyle agreed to undertake an improvement project in the community and chose to improve the main path at Standish Allotment Society's site next to St Marie's Church.

The path had become hazardous, with uneven and slippery flags making it difficult for some allotment holders to use.

The company removed the flags and relaid the path with recycled planings that are hard-wearing and improve drainage.

Allotment Society member Kathryn said: "We are really pleased with the work – it is not something we had the finances to do. The company came to the site and we discussed what we needed, and they were happy to carry it out. We are very grateful."

There is a waiting list for allotments on the site. Please visit them if you want more information.



WORK ON OFFER TO IMPROVE PLAYING FIELDS

Contractors are being sought to improve the drainage on Standish playing fields.

Notice has gone out to firms to bid for the work at Ashfield Park and Southlands Rec.

The three pitches at Ashfield – two at the back and one at the front – and one at the Rec are due to be improved so organised teams can book them out and play on them.

The work at Ashfield follows on from improvements to footpaths and the new play area.

MORE FOLLOWERS ON SV'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Standish Voice now has 17,000 followers on Facebook – thanks to everyone who follows the page. Like or Follow us to see more posts.



WORK BEGINS ON PEPPER LANE DEVELOPMENT

Work has begun on the housing estate on Standish's Pepper Lane. Fencing has gone up at the entrance to the 57-home development with the likely first act being cutting back trees and shrubs ahead of the bird nesting season and the demolition of buildings.

There are tree preservation orders active on the site that builders Persimmon need to abide by, and they have built these into their plans. You can see a map of individual trees, and groups of trees and bushes protected.

Work on the site is supposed to only take place from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturday.

Standish Voice has written to the council to ask what the plans are for deliveries so that local residents are not inconvenienced and congestion does not build at rush hours on Pepper Lane.

JOIN A WALK AROUND THE VILLAGE

Standish Walking Trails are part of a series of self-led walking routes

along the Bee Network and you can explore them on three organised walks.

The Be Well Wigan group walks will take place on Sunday 1st and Sunday 29th March, and Sunday 3rd May.

Register for them here: <https://bewellwigan.gladstonego.cloud/book>



CAMELOT HOMES GO TO PLANNING INSPECTOR

The Camelot site will go before a planning inspector to see if 350 homes can be built there.

An inquiry is set for May to decide whether plans to build homes on the site of the former theme park can proceed, after Chorley Council failed to determine the application within the required timeframe. Housebuilder Story Homes has lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate, arguing that the statutory deadline for a decision on the

major scheme expired without a ruling.

The 74-acre site at Charnock Richard, designated as Green Belt land, has been earmarked for redevelopment since 2014, two years after the theme park closed.

Story Homes, which purchased the site in 2009, has previously sought permission to redevelop it on two occasions but was refused both times.

Neither refusal was appealed, as the council was then able to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply.

Rising government housing targets have since altered that position, influencing the developer's decision to challenge the lack of determination.

The introduction of the government's Grey Belt policy — covering Green Belt land deemed not to serve its intended purpose — has also strengthened Story's case.

The developer maintains that the former Camelot site meets the Grey Belt criteria and hopes to persuade an inspector accordingly.

If successful, the £80m scheme would deliver 350 homes, 35% of them affordable - aligning with one of the government's key requirements for Grey Belt development.

You can see the plan above.

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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