

STANDISH VOICE MAY NEWSLETTER

STANDISH CORONAVIRUS HELP

As members of our community continue to self-isolate, Standish Voice is helping to support our more vulnerable residents through Standish Coronavirus Help.

Our volunteers are shopping and delivering medication for people who cannot leave their homes and go to public places and the process is, generally, working extremely well.

The initiative is being co-ordinated by Standish Voice and our councillors, Adam Marsh, Debbie Parkinson and Ray Whittingham.

Adam is doing much of the day-to-day co-ordination and our Treasurer, Karen Bliss, has been very busy processing well over 100 transactions between our volunteers and self-isolators through Standish Voice.

We want to thank all our current volunteers for their dedication and compassion and those on our list who have not yet been called upon.

If some volunteers now helping out are unable to carry on, or more self-isolators needing our help come forward, we will be contacting more of those people who kindly offered to help.

Some of the volunteers will be delivering our leaflet over the coming week or so.

The flyer has details of the scheme and our 24-hour helpline number, which continues to be operated free of charge with professionalism by Standish company, SMARTstrat.

If you receive a leaflet through your door over the coming days and do not need it, please pass it on to someone who lives near you who you think may require our help.

Last month, we delivered 'essentials packs' (*pictured*) to many of the vulnerable residents who have registered with us.

Thanks to everyone who delivered them. We will organise another pack to be delivered in the weeks ahead.



SUPPORT STANDISH

Our website, www.supportstandish.co.uk, now has around 100 local businesses

signed up to it.

Support Standish is designed to give residents a central digital space they can go to check what our businesses are doing during lockdown, for instance if they deliver or if their arrangements have changed. It also gives free of charge advertising to our business in the village.

It is a free website set up with local marketing and design agency Nettle and there is also now a Facebook page and a weekly newsletter so people can find out more about our local traders and firms, which we all need to support during this crisis.

Go to the Facebook page by clicking [here](#).

WE ARE A FORUM FOR FIVE MORE YEARS

We are pleased to tell you that Standish Voice has been redesignated as the Neighbourhood Forum for Standish for another five years.

We would like to thank everyone who contacted Wigan Council to support our redesignation.

There was a huge 160 submissions to the council's consultation on this from people across Standish and every single one was supportive.

Being a statutory Neighbourhood Forum gives Standish Voice much more influence with Wigan Council and other authorities and bodies, especially in the area of planning.

We will continue to be a Neighbourhood Forum until May 14th, 2025, when we will have to apply for the designation again.

You can read the submissions [here](#).

Pictured is a Wigan Observer article about the redesignation decision.

New backing for township's voice

Residents' group Standish Voice has been redesignated as a neighbourhood forum for the area.

Wigan Council backed the move after receiving 167 submissions from Standish locals - all wanting the organisation to continue.

And so it will now for at least another five years.

The group aims to make Standish a better place in which to live and work in by implementing its village neighbourhood plan which contains 30 policies ranging from takeaway restriction, leisure facility improvements and green space conservation: measures approved in a landslide public vote last year.

A Standish Voice spokesman said: "Standish Voice would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit their views on the redesignation of our organisation as the Neighbourhood Forum

for the village.

"We have been redesignated until May 14, 2025, and pledge to continue being a voice for the people of Standish, working alongside our councillors to improve life in the village."

The group said people had made positive comments to the council about its work over the last five years and it should continue to represent them.

One resident said: "I fully support the continuation of Standish Neighbourhood Forum."

"Standish Voice have made a significant difference in the village through the community initiatives and production of the Standish Neighbourhood Plan."

"The continuation of the Neighbourhood Forum will ensure the Neighbourhood Plan is fully implemented."

Our Standish Voice Facebook page has now more than 9,000 followers.

We would like to thank everyone who has Liked or Followed our page – if you have not done this already, please do so as it means you will see more of our posts.

If you are not on Facebook, consider signing up. It is a great way to find out local information and you don't have to use it socially.

Out of 9,055 people who follow our page, only six people have been banned from commenting on the page for flagrantly breaching our rules to keep people safe and maintain the page a respectful place for residents to air their views.

Thanks to everyone who follows our rules on the page. You can read our rules on our website.



PROPOSALS TO EXTEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Standish's Wood Fold School is planning to expand, with the creation of a new nursery and classroom on the site.

New proposals are to build an extension onto the school and expand it over three phases to accommodate the growing number of children in the village.

Wigan Council has drawn up the plans and they want to start to build this summer, depending on the situation with COVID-19.

The council has around £1.5m from developers to increase the size of schools in Standish after hundreds of houses continue to be built. St Wilfrid's CE School has already had an extension.

Standish Voice has given a response, which you can read in this press article, and we are awaiting the publishing of the proposals as a planning application.

The principle of expanding Standish's primary schools was agreed in 2013 in Standish Infrastructure Assessment, which looked at what new infrastructure would be needed in the village if housebuilding was agreed.

That report discounted a new primary school in favour of extending existing ones and the large planning applications were submitted accordingly, the bulk being passed in summer 2014.

THE CROWN HAS A GOLDEN FUTURE

The redevelopment of The Crown pub is continuing despite lockdown. New landlord Andrew McKenna and his family have moved into the Worthington pub and are refurbishing it ahead of an opening as soon as the lockdown restrictions end.

It is fantastic news that this landmark building will be rescued from demolition after it was closed more than four years ago.

Throughout that time Standish Voice has helped campaigners from Save The Crown to fight the planning application – which would have seen the pub knocked down and replaced with housing – and to market the building as a hospitality venue.

Andrew, pictured below, is planning a food-led pub with real ales and a friendly, community atmosphere.

We want to congratulate Save The Crown and wish Andrew and his family the very best of luck with their venture at this difficult time.

SCHEME TO BUILD SOCIAL HOUSING

A planning application has been lodged for eight social housing flats in Standish. Wigan Council is developing the site on Longridge Avenue and is planning two blocks of one-bedroom flats, with gardens, parking and landscaping.

The homes would be for social rent, either through the council or a housing association, if the council chooses not to administer the properties themselves.

The council did neighbour consultation on this scheme, and on another smaller site on Almond Brook Road, through a drop-in session at Standish Community Centre in March.

Now, the Longridge Avenue scheme has proceeded to the planning application stage, but more work has to be done to see if the Almond Brook Road site – a public garden area near St Stephen's Road – is suitable for similar flats.

The application states: "The proposal for the site comprises 8no. 1 bedroom cottage flats with individual parking spaces, communal gardens, and associated landscaping. The site is designed to respect the existing neighbouring properties."

Standish Voice is studying the planning application but we have previously supported the scheme in principle as it provides social housing for rent for people, including the elderly or the disabled, who may not be able to afford market house prices in Standish.

To read more about the application, see [this](#)

link: <https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online.../applicationDetails.do...>

