

You can read Standish Voice's March 2021 newsletter by following this link: <https://mailchi.mp/8d842a2ea6d0/march-newsletter-from-standish-voice-neighbourhood-forum>

Wigan Council is carrying out a consultation into projects it will undertake to improve the infrastructure in Standish.

Standish Voice and its current councillors, Ray Whittingham, Debbie Parkinson and Adam Marsh, have successfully pressed Standish's case that all £6.5m of the money – which developers need to give the council to mitigate their housebuilding – must be spent within the village.

Standish Voice is urging all its 1,500 members to take part in the consultation. However, we are dismayed and angry with the wording used in the survey, which includes leading questions, and are frustrated at the lack of detail given. The council's email for information was not working for the first two days of the consultation and only after a request from Standish Voice did the local authority add a phone number for people to contact – 01942 244991.

It is especially worrying because some of the proposed projects are controversial, including the possible widening of School Lane to make a third lane of traffic. An alternative plan to this, for improvements in the village centre, including better footpaths, a nicer street scene and 20mph zones along Pole Street, Cross Street and Market Street, has also been included in the consultation.

Other schemes include a new village centre car park – extending the current one on Quakers Place – and enhanced open space and parkland, footpaths and cycleways.

Throughout our discussions with Wigan Council, Standish Voice has stressed the importance of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, which was agreed overwhelmingly at referendum in 2019. We also stressed that the residents of Standish needed to have a say the council's proposals.

Wigan Council's consultation will last for two weeks. You should have received a paper copy, but you can also fill in the electronic survey form via this website: [www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/consultations)

Residents can join a virtual meeting with the council to discuss the proposals on Monday evening (March 15th). But you must email [SGLConsultation@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:SGLConsultation@wigan.gov.uk) to register before tomorrow evening (Sunday). During the consultation process, which runs until March 22, residents must direct their questions to Wigan Council. Standish Voice will give its views on the schemes to the council in due course.

A spokesman for Standish Voice said: "Standish Voice urges all residents of the village to have their say in how the money for improved infrastructure is spent in our community."

“Over several years, we and our local councillors have impressed on Wigan Council that all money from developers involved in the huge house building programme should be spent in Standish to mitigate the very real problems this over-development has caused.

“There are a number of projects from Wigan Council which could help with this and we have been in discussion with them over many months about them.

“Ahead of the consultation starting, we were not given access to the details that will be shared with the public about these schemes.

“On seeing this information on the morning of the consultation, we are appalled at the lack of detail given about them, especially in relation to the proposed widening of School Lane, which will impact many residents who live there.

“This consultation is incredibly important, and we need residents to be as fully informed as possible before they give their views.”

Read a news story on this here:

<https://www.wigantoday.net/news/politics/council/wigan-groups-appalled-as-consultation-begins-on-how-ps15m-should-be-spent-to-improve-communities-3159167>

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Standish Voice is calling on Wigan Council to admit that the housebuilding programme across Standish has been too much over too short a space of time – and wants the council to pledge to protect Standish’s remaining green spaces.

The call comes after residents were appalled that yet another much-loved green space was fenced off by developers for housebuilding.

The field, off Langham Road, is to be developed into 80 homes as an extension to the Wainhomes estate, which is already being built out. It is the latest greenfield area to be torn up for homes in Standish in a housebuilding programme which will see more than 1,000 new homes in the village.

Wigan Council agreed the planning application for the field off The Line in 2016 – dismissing objections from Standish Voice and others – but only now has fencing been erected ahead of building. This has outraged many residents who were not aware of the plans.

A spokesman for Standish Voice said: “There has been real anger that this field has now been fenced off by developers and people cannot walk or exercise their dogs on this land. It is a real kick in the teeth, especially during a pandemic when all people can do is exercise. This is obviously of no concern at all to Wainhomes, which should have waited to do this until lockdown ceased.

“Wigan Council allowed planning permission in 2016, despite hundreds of homes already being planned nearby. We objected strongly and put our concerns in person at the planning committee, but these were brushed aside. “Standish Voice and our councillors have pushed the council into agreeing that all developer money to the local authority should be spent in Standish but, for many people, it does not compensate for the permanent loss of this green space.

“We are now calling on Wigan Council to admit that their policies in their local plan from around 2013 totally failed the people of Standish and the housebuilding has been far too much and far too quick for any community to cope with adequately.

“We want the council to pledge that they will now robustly defend Standish’s remaining green spaces against development, which is what Standish Neighbourhood Plan is trying to do.”

You can read a news article on this here:

<https://www.wigantoday.net/news/politics/council/neighbours-anger-after-popular-wigan-playing-field-fenced-off-3162019>

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People have contacted Standish Voice worried about work being carried out on land at Chorley Road in Standish, opposite Worthington Lakes.

It seems BT are working on cabling in the area, but Japanese Knotweed is also being cleared from the former tip.

The area is in Green Belt, so no development is currently allowed unless it is “exceptional circumstances”.

We will monitor the situation.

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Business across Standish have come together to create their own organisation. Councillor Adam Marsh arranged an initial meeting of business owners and managers who pledged to set up the new group.

Standish Voice’s Vice Chair Paul Ogden and Business Lead Diane Gore addressed the meeting and Diane has agreed to be a link person between the neighbourhood forum and the new organisation.

If you or your business is interested in joining the group, contact

[a.marsh@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:a.marsh@wigan.gov.uk)

or Judith Atherton from Vincent’s Solicitors at [judith@vincentswigan.co.uk](mailto:judith@vincentswigan.co.uk)

See a news story on this here: <https://www.wigantoday.net/news/uk-news/tell-us-how-bounce-back-say-standish-businesses-3138057>

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A Standish care home is planning a new building on its current site to cater for more elderly, mentally infirm people.

Lakeland Care Home, on Chorley Road, is proposing a new 48-bedroom home with art and music therapy rooms, a beauty and wellness area, indoor therapeutic garden. The home says it would be the first one in the UK to have pandemic proofing in its design.

The new building would be on Green Belt next to its existing one near Worthington Lakes.

You can watch a video of the proposals here: [https://youtu.be/SD3\\_Us\\_nBgE](https://youtu.be/SD3_Us_nBgE)  
Standish Voice will respond to the planning application when it is submitted but we have discussed the proposals and despite the proposed home being of high quality, we do not believe this is the right site as it is a protected Green Belt area.

Read a news story about this here:

[https://www.wigantoday.net/news/people/plans-new-ps5m-pandemic-proof-care-home-wigan-are-unveiled-3124547?fbclid=IwAR2cOeOqffawUKsj7OemKLuG\\_9RguSxL47y9iDajVTOxv-igCVDMRerzLIM](https://www.wigantoday.net/news/people/plans-new-ps5m-pandemic-proof-care-home-wigan-are-unveiled-3124547?fbclid=IwAR2cOeOqffawUKsj7OemKLuG_9RguSxL47y9iDajVTOxv-igCVDMRerzLIM)

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Standish Voice held its AGM virtually in January. Thanks to those who attended the Zoom meeting.

You can read annual reports from Chair Gill Foster here -

<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Chairs-Annual-Report-2020-2.pdf> - and by Vice Chair Paul Ogden here -

<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Vice-chairs-report-2020.pdf>

The committee thanked Nic MacMillan who stood down from the committee for her hard work over several years, including creating the highly professional Evidence Base needed for Standish Neighbourhood Plan.

We welcomed Ian Trafford in her place. Ian has been an integral part of Standish Christmas Market organising committee for several years. He has also joined Paul as an Admin on Standish Voice's Facebook page, which recently surpassed 10,000 followers.

Committee members the Rev Andrew Holliday, Gill Foster, Karen Bliss and Nicky Ogden were re-elected. Gill was re-elected as Chair, Paul as Vice Chair and Karen as Treasurer.

You can read last year's AGM minutes and our Accounts on our website – [www.standishvoice.co.uk](http://www.standishvoice.co.uk)

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Standish Voice has objected to the planning application for reserved matters for agricultural Land East Of Rectory Farm Rectory Lane.

Outline permission was granted by a Government planning inspector in 2017 after Wigan Council refused it.

Now the developer, Wainhomes, is giving the details of the scheme for 119 homes. This plan was lodged last year but has since been revised after many objections, including ones from nearby residents, councillors and Standish Voice.

We are especially concerned that there is no plan of how disturbance during the build (a CEMP) can be kept to a minimum.

Our objection states: "Though we welcome the reduction of homes from 128 (outline approval) to 119, and the introduction of a pedestrian link footpath to Rectory Lane, we note the number of affordable homes proposed is still only 25% of the total, which is well below that stipulated in the Standish Neighbourhood Plan.

"We feel the level of disturbance to existing residents will be extreme and would ask that a CEMP is prepared as part of the Approval of Reserved Matters stage to fully inform and prepare local residents. Particular stress should be placed on the absolute need for a wheel-wash on site to avoid any mud on the public access road.

"The hours of working on site should be strictly limited during the working week and should be completely prohibited at weekends due to the strong likelihood of children playing outdoors and the dust and noise that would otherwise cause nuisance.

"For the above reasons, and due to the strong feeling of local residents, we continue to object to the proposals on the grounds stated."

Read a news story on this here:

<https://www.wigantoday.net/news/politics/council/fight-against-housing-plan-wigan-estate-3133090>

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Wigan Council carried out a consultation on its new planning policies in relation to air quality which Standish Voice responded to.

We were very disappointed at the lack of ambition shown by the council, especially as it has pledged to reduce emissions drastically, especially from traffic.

You can read the document on this link:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/Consultations/Current/Development-and-Air-Quality-Supplementary-Planning-Document.aspx>

This is the response we sent to the council...

**Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals.**

**We are, however, very disappointed that the proposals do not go further to futureproof and address the issues of air quality and mitigation, particularly as the proposals are directed at major applications.**

**Unless Standish gets any further major development applications, we believe the proposals will have minor impact on applications here. This will leave the village way behind in mitigation measures, even though this has been highlighted as an issue both in the neighbourhood plan and the air quality in our area.**

**Specific comments are as follows:**

**4.1 Develop in sustainable locations... access to public transport and services: Most of these locations have probably already been built upon so any proposed development should make significant contribution to provision of any public transport required.**

**4.4 Sustainable transport connections: Larger developments often involve multiple builders, co-ordination/ integration of connections should be imposed.**

**4.4 Key design and sustainability principles: The document states that some of these should be 'considered'. In our opinion that is far too weak a requirement, as any profit driven developer will ignore this. We believe the wording of this should be significantly strengthened.**

**Table 5.1 Minimum number of electric vehicle charging points: The required numbers are very unambitious. With a 5 to 10-year horizon, these numbers will be totally inadequate, leaving costly and disruptive scaling up required.**

**Table 6.2 The thresholds at which Full AQA are required seem high and we ask this be revisited.**

**Standish Voice Committee**