

Standish Voice response to Wigan MBC consultation on Section 106 expenditure in Standish – March 2021

Here is the response from Standish Voice committee to the consultation.

Firstly, can we thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

We are, however, disappointed at both the way in which the consultation has been carried out on these especially important decisions, which we believe has prevented people in Standish being able to make informed decisions because of the lack of detailed information that has been made available, and the paternalistic way in which questions have been asked.

We have been contacted by a number of people who have raised these concerns.

Having said this, we are pleased that further information and detail has been provided albeit part way through the consultation and that residents have been able to ask questions during the Q and A session held on the 15th March.

In formulating our response, we have taken into account our more detailed knowledge of schemes and the views of local people.

The high level of activity that this consultation has generated on social media and our Facebook page has demonstrated how important these issues are in Standish. We would suggest that these social media comments are also considered by the council on deciding the way forward.

Q1 This is a response from Standish Neighbourhood Forum (Standish Voice)

Q2 and Q3 Improvement to congestion, better open space and play facilities, cycling and walking facilities and improved parking are all relevant issues in Standish as has been identified through the extensive consultation both Standish Voice and the council carried out on the development and subsequent referendum for Standish Neighbourhood Plan (SNP), and all these issues are included in the adopted SNP. There are numerous relevant policies included in SNP for all these issues – all of which have been approved by The Planning Inspectorate – and these are not prioritized in the SNP.

Q4 Improving Traffic flow and congestion **rating 1**

Q5 Standish Voice considers that the proposal to widen School Lane is a very poor option for the following reasons:

- The feedback we have received strongly indicates residents are against it.
- We do not consider the proposals will resolve the congestion issues.
- The proposals to create two longer lanes of idling traffic will be further detriment to the air quality on School Lane, which is already the third worst site for air quality in the borough.

- It will take away green space adjoining the roadway and off-road parking spaces for local residents on School Lane.
- It will involve relocating extensive data and telecoms equipment and cabling.
- School Lane will become busier, with three lanes of traffic instead of two between Green Lane and Preston Road.
- The detrimental impact of increased pollution, noise and vibration on residents living on School Lane.
- Safety of schoolchildren, both to road safety and effects of air quality.
- The crossroads are at capacity and any 'improvements' to increase this may result in the potential of future additional housing in Standish, so creating more congestion, pollution and disruption to the village.
- It may encourage rather than discourage traffic through the village which may add to congestion rather than reduce it.
- Wigan's highways department has said in numerous meetings that the impact of the road improvements into Wigan town Centre from the Junction 26 should alleviate some of the traffic therefore it is too premature to know the impact and reduction in congestion this may have.

Q6 Alternative schemes to School Lane Road widening rating 10

Q7 We are concerned that this question is misleading in that we suggested pedestrian improvements, not pedestrianization, of the area. As part of the development of SNP, Standish Voice commissioned consultants to carry out a detailed study to look at improvements that could be made to the village centre of Standish, a copy of which has been previously shared with the council. We would urge the council to re-visit the masterplan and progress the ideas in there for the village centre.

Q8 Rating of schemes in order of importance (1 least important 5 most important)

1 – Widening School Lane

4 – Upgrade the Market Street zebra crossing.

3 – Install traffic lights at Bradley Lane bridge

2 – Upgrade traffic lights at Red Rock Lane canal bridge

5 – Pedestrian improvements Pole Street, Market Street and Cross Street.

Q9 Standish Voice considers that none of the Section 106 monies from housebuilding developments within Standish should be spent at the Red Rock Lane canal bridge as this is outside the Standish boundary.

Q10 Parking rating 10

Q11 Lack of adequate parking in Standish has been identified as a priority to support our local businesses. In 2016, there was an agreement with the council to address this as a matter of urgency. Standish Voice is disappointed that the council has not progressed the

temporary car park on Preston Road and would urge the council to reconsider this. Any parking scheme should be to the safety by design standards.

Q12 Cycling and walking – rating 10

Q13 Standish Voice would urge the council to speedily progress the improvements to the Robin Hill footpath and bridleway as the extension to The Line, as this scheme is not funded from Section 106 monies and the £50k identified monies will be match-funded. We support proposals to utilise money from developers to match fund to bring in additional money for use within Standish to extend and improve cycleways and footpaths in and around the village. We would again refer to SNP, which has relevant policies and projects for these improvements. More information is required on these schemes and in particular the standards of improvements that are proposed.

Q14 Open space and play – rating of schemes in order of importance (1 least important 10 most important)

10 – Ashfield Park

10 – Southlands recreation ground

10 – Almond Brook

10 – Robin Hill playing field.

Q15 We again refer you to SNP, which has policies relating to the above. We also refer you to the Lancashire Wildlife Trust report which was commissioned by Standish Voice and has been shared with the council as to the improvements to Robin Hill playing field and Almond Brook. Southlands recreation ground should be subject to further consultation on the council's proposals to identify what could be incorporated in a community park scheme (as per the policy in the adopted SNP), which would encourage greater usage of this area by a greater proportion of the local community, particularly given the expansion of Wood Fold Primary School.

Standish Voice's committee again thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation and we look forward to working with you to progress schemes to benefit the residents and businesses in Standish.

Gill Foster, Standish Voice Chair