

Standish Voice Newsletter

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



FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME?

An ambitious project to bring youth football back to the Standish area and create a new multi-sport hub for the community has been launched.

The initiative, which is at an early stage, would see fields at Red Rock turned into

football pitches for the new home of Standish Panthers and possibly other football and sports clubs, and schools.



You can read the announcement by Standish Panthers below and you can take part in a survey from the club on the proposals by following a link at the end of this article.

The club made this announcement:

“AFTER 20 YEARS OF SEARCHING STANDISH PANTHERS COMMUNITY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD THEIR OWN PITCHES.

THE COMMITTEE OF STANDISH PANTHERS

WOULD WELCOME THE COMMUNITY OF STANDISH TO COMPLETE A POLL AS TO WHETHER THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SPORTS HUB TO CREATE FOOTBALL AND OTHER SPORTING FACILITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY AT LAND OFF RED ROCK LANE.

Standish Panthers are in early discussions with the council to create a sports hub for the community of Standish off Red Rock Lane.

Standish Panthers was created in 2003 and has grown over the 22 years to over 315 players registered to the club.

We have over 40 teams at junior and open age football playing in Standish including Pine Villa and Standish St Wilfrids with no facilities that can support junior boys and girls football along with OA and other sports that will use the facilities.

The huge housebuilding programme across Standish has increased the number of

children, both boys and girls, who want to play football for Standish Football teams and there is an opportunity to support the demand.

Since May 2024, Panthers have had 116 enquiries from prospective players but have only been able to accept 18 due to the lack of training facilities.

Standish Panthers currently playing and training at 11 venues across the Wigan Borough – and we are finding it increasingly hard to find pitches, as well as other teams in Standish.

We are now in the fortunate position to have the opportunity to create our own football pitches at Red Rock Lane, which would have a huge impact on football and other sports in and around the Standish area to support the growing demand for boys and girls junior football with much needed training facilities for the club to grow and more importantly to survive and other clubs in Standish.

The proposals is to transform the land below the Leeds-Liverpool Canal into a series of pitches.

We have engaged with experts who are are guiding us through a full planning application with regards to the position of the pitches, the importance of the base for the 4G to support other sports as well as the access which we have engaged with a qualified traffic planning consultant to support and meet the Wigan Highway requirements.

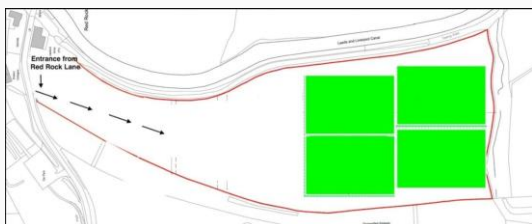
The facilities will be made available to other local football clubs, rugby clubs and schools in the nearby area who will be able to train there in the week.

We have a major challenge on our hands to get planning permission and to help achieve this we really need the support from the people of Standish.”

Give your view in Standish Panthers’ poll through this

link: <https://forms.gle/exzQPv4YykDGxyS7>

You can see maps below of where the pitches would go and the planned entrance to the facility.





[For more information on the proposals, click here](#)

STANDISH VOICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are invited to Standish Voice's Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, January 28th at 7.45pm in a private room at Albert's, on School Lane.

There will be reports from the past year, a presentation of our accounts, and the election of committee members and officers. Anyone who lives or works in Standish can attend and you will be made very welcome.

NEW HOUSING PLAN SET TO BE LODGED

Are another 150 new homes being lined up for Standish?

A news story expresses anger at another planning application for housing, which is due to be validated, for new homes off Rectory Lane.

The site is on green fields off Iron Drive – an extension to the existing Persimmon/Morris Homes estate.

This land is designated as “safeguarded” for future development, the same as

most of the land already built out by housing developers over the last decade. The last two planning applications linked to housing for Standish were refused by Wigan Council's planning committee in October due to a lack of infrastructure in highways and health services in the village.

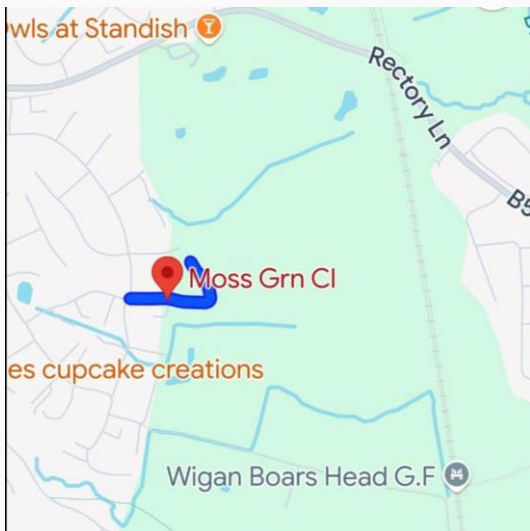
Nothing has changed since then so we are hoping the planning committee will refuse this one, too.

Standish Voice's comment in the news article is: "Standish has probably seen the highest proportion of homes added to its housing stock over the past decade than anywhere else in the North West. But there has been no enhancement of our road infrastructure over that time to cope with around 30 per cent more traffic.

"And our NHS primary care services have actually worsened over that 10 years, to the extent that the NHS locally has said our GP practice was in danger of being overwhelmed if there was any new housebuilding. Only a few weeks ago, Wigan's planning committee took the responsible decision to refuse new developments in Standish because of this."

We will post the details of the plan when it is published on Wigan Council's planning portal.

You can see a map of where the new homes are planned and a map of the "safeguarded" land in the area.



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



STANDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET IS A HUGE SUCCESS

Standish Christmas Market was another success in 2024 thanks to the whole community pulling together to stage the huge event.

Residents, visitors, businesses and local organisations were all resoundingly positive about the Market and the atmosphere it generates in Standish and we would like to thank everyone who supported us in staging it.

We are determined to be back in 2025 and have already penciled in Saturday, December 6th as the date. Standish Voice made a modest profit on the day, which will be used to fund next year's Christmas Market. We have so many people to thank for their help in staging this amazing annual event and we would like to express our gratitude for their support...

Standish Christmas Market

Committee: Kathy Robertson, Ian Trafford,

Paul Ogden, Claire Callaghan, Emma Perry, Christine Crossan, Judith Atherton, Steve Iddon, Bernie Molloy, Cllr Debbie Parkinson, Sarah Djali, Heidi Lipscombe, Jackie Houghton, Richard Perry, Kay Clarke, Diane Gore.

Our amazing Christmas Market volunteers in alphabetical order: Cecilia Ashcroft, Alison Ball, Andrea Barrow, Joanne Byers, Michelle Chalkley, Kay Clarke, Paul Clarke, Samantha Clayton, Donna Collishaw, Hugh Crossan, Paul Dandy, Chris Djali, Michael Djali, Jon Djali, Peter Djali, Elaine Ellison, Margaret Gaffney, Jennifer Garner, Philip Housley, Rachel Kneale, Sheila Lucas, Vicky McDonnell, Jane Molloy, Erik Newman, Viv Newman, Norma Pruden, Steve Pruden, Andrea Roberts, Deborah Sayer, Peter Sayer, Jayne Shenton, Jean Sinclair, Gary Taylor, Sandie Taylor, Mick Taylor, Janice Thompson, Joanna Tomlinson, Ron Wade, Katy Warriner, Julie Webster and Nikki Wilson.

And the volunteers in the library: Alison, Anne H, Ann C, Cathy, Chris,



Evelyn, John, Fran, Gail, Gill, Irene, Jackie, Jane, Jennifer, Johanna, Jude, Judith We, Judith Wo, Maggie, Pauline, Penny, Susan, Valerie, Yvonne, Colin, Jan, Marie, Rhona, Anne P, Pam, Barbara, Sibel, Emma and Donna.

Our business sponsors who help financially and

practically: GOLD: Inglenorth Contracting Ltd, Gerrards Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners, Circ Dental, Top Grades Education,

Holts Brewery, Bibby Hygiene, Standish Engineering Company, McRobbs Butchers, Millennium Care. SILVER: NR Barton, Ainscough Industrial Services, Sweet Ting, Self Storage Standish. BRONZE: RJT Solicitors, Lancashire Pet Food Company, Potter's Bar, Standish Styling Opticians, Gilmore Vets, The Globe, SSKD, Fifteens of Standish, Albert's Restaurant.

Our live artists: Compere Chris Boyle, St Marie's Primary School Choir, Wood Fold Primary School Choir, St Wilfrid's Primary Academy Choir, Wigan Ukulele Band, Susan Hayes Vocalists, Standish Community High School, Wigan Youth Zone, The North West Singer, Macy Halliwell, Calvin Snape, Last Chance Rockers, Marti Boardman, Neil Dunlop, Prospect Garage Brass Band, Susanne Callegan, Wigan Rock Choir, Carol Brown, KXT Dance Elite, Billi Sunshine, Caroline McCann.



Businesses who donated to our prize draw (the winners are published in the image above): Copper Vines, Hickory's Smokehouse, Standish Styling opticians, La Mama, Tim's La Mama, Harwoods Patisserie, Simply Beautiful, Time For Me, Gels By Michelle, Potters Bar and The Globe.

Prize givers for our dog competition: Nannans, SJM Pet Services, LornamarsdenART, Gilmore Vets and Pochypaw.

Businesses who formed the Gonk Christmas

Trail: Akoya, Barbara's of Standish, Bumbles, The Changing Room, Garlands, Harwoods Patisserie, Highcross Hardware, Impressions Uniforms, Lucy Lou's Balloons, Miss Lola Couture, The Secret Garden Coffee Lounge and Standish Cards.

Not forgetting: Residents and businesses of Cross Street, Market Place and Church Street for their patience and co-operation. Wood Fold School and St Marie's Church for use of their car parks. Steven from The Card Shop for his printing; Josh Houghton Motor Company for the loan of their van; John Bird of JB Event Catering for use of the generator and lighting; My Life and The Crown pub for the use of their car parks for our Park and Ride scheme. Rev Andrew Holliday and St Wilfrid's Church, Standish Community Centre and Standish Methodist Church. Chris and Michael Djali for the trail, St Wilfrid's Bellringers, Neil Dunlop and Standish Unity Club for the karaoke. Wigan Council and our councillors, Cllr Debbie Parkinson, Cllr Ray Whittingham and Cllr Terry Mugan for their funding and support, and Cllr Parkinson and Cllr Mugan for opening the Market as Mayor of Wigan and Mayor's Consort.



Standish Library and the Friends of Standish Library. Painter Joe Kiney Whitmore and our photographers David Stanley, Christine Thompson, Michael Claude Finney, Kay Clark, Eloise Wright, Ab Monsur, Joanne Byers, Jonathan Sedgwick, Andrea Marsden, Janette Moran and Alyson Bury.



WOOD FOLD SCHOOL SET TO EXPAND

Wood Fold primary school is set to expand by half as much again - despite concerns by the governors.

Wood Fold Primary School is moving towards having 90 more places from September due to the huge increase in Standish's population over the past decade.

Wigan Council cabinet has approved a proposal to admit 90 children each year in three forms starting from September – currently, it admits 60 in two forms.

The next stage is a planning application and if it is approved, buildings on the school site on Green Lane will be enlarged to take the extra children to a maximum capacity of 630 places in the school by 2029.

A council report says projections show from next year that Wood Fold, which is judged as Outstanding by Ofsted, would become even more oversubscribed, but the governors have written to the council saying they are sceptical about the figures. They also have expressed safety concerns due to increased traffic.

And in a recent public consultation about the proposals, only six responses favoured the plans, with 45 against, most stating worries about increased congestion.

Read a news report on the decision [HERE](#).

VISIT THE LINE FOR A WILDLIFE TREASURE HUNT

Want to get out and about with the kids in Standish this winter?

Why not do this wildlife treasure hunt down The Line - and you could win a prize.

We think you'd be hard-pressed to spot an owl though! It was created by Wigan Council and the Bee Network. Good luck!

Standish Scavenger Hunt

Join the fun

Go take a trip along the route. Look out for wildlife on your commute. From animals large and small. Just tick the list and find them all.

Walk, wheel or cycle the trail. Keep your eyes open and spot a snail. Whether there's rain or sun, it will always be fun. Explore the outdoors - there are prizes to be won.



How to play:

1. Follow the yellow route marked on the map on the reverse.
2. Along the route look out for animals pictured in checklist below. WMS 042
3. Each animal you find on the route will include a number.
4. Add this number to the check list above.
5. When you find all the animals take the completed sheet to any of these venues to collect a small prize. Subject to availability.
 - Wigan and Leigh Hospice Charity Shop, Market Street | WNG 3AN
 - Standish Library, Cross Street | WNG 042
 - Standish Community Centre, Honey Street | WNG 02YVenues opening hours vary. Please check online before attending.


About the Standish Western Route/Standish Mineral Line Scheme

Standish Mineral Line/Extension


Wigan Council has transformed the old mineral line in Standish into a safer, multi-user route, providing a fully surfaced and lit bridleway from School Lane to Brookfield Road. This upgrade has improved access to services and facilities and extended the Standish Mineral Line by 2.1km for walking, wheeling and cycling.

Standish Western Route

This scheme enhances cycling and walking facilities in the Standish area, starting north of Gidlow Lane and ending at Standish Wood Lane.



Wigan Council **Be Well**



PUB SET TO TRANSFORM INTO NEW RESAURANT

Hickory's Smokehouse - due to be created at Standish's Charnley Arms - is set to open in Spring.

The company behind the Southern American restaurant has applied for planning permission to refurbish the Almond Brook Road building - adding the distinctive design of the popular smokehouse chain.

The Hickory's brand is from the company that runs Greene King, owner of the Charnley, which is now closed.

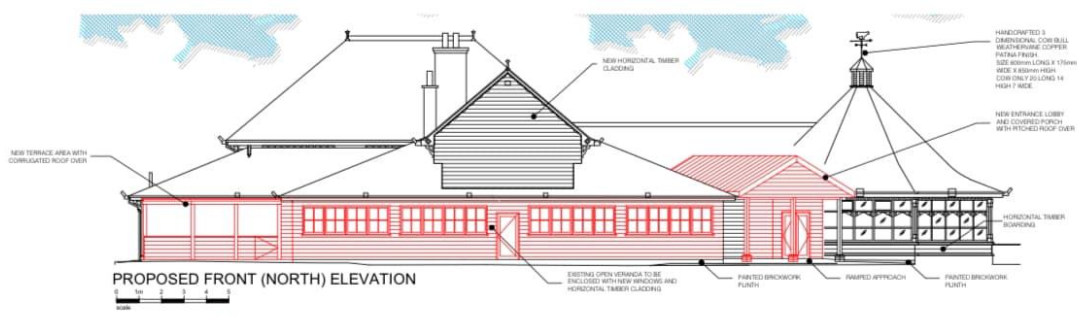
They want to renovate and modify the building - which was once the site of Henry Africa's - with the creation of an entrance lobby, kitchen dry store, terrace and infilling of existing veranda, timber cladding/horizontal

boarding to elevations, weather vane, additional parking, accessible parking spaces and landscaping.

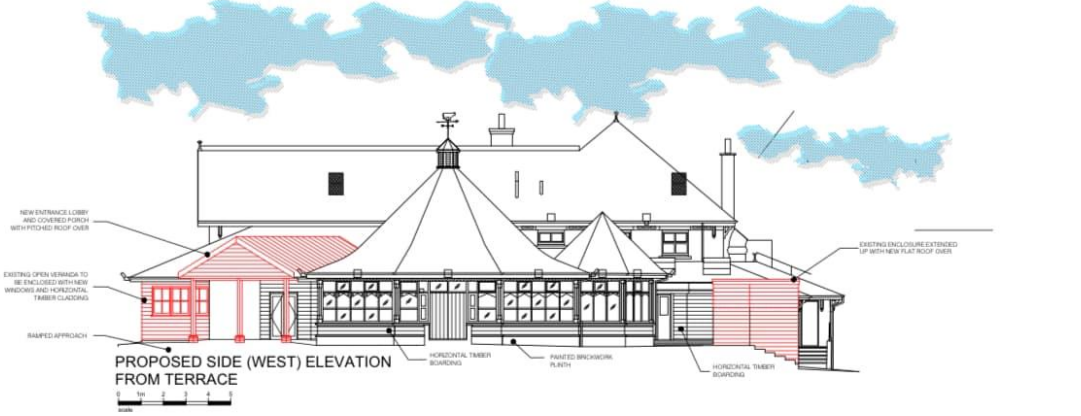
Work can start on refurbishing the building before the new additions are agreed and the restaurant to due to launch in Spring 2025.

The BBQ-style chain serves southern US cuisine, such as corn dogs, ribs and pulled pork with bespoke drinks including fresh milkshakes and cocktails.

You can see below the designs for the building.



PROPOSED FRONT (NORTH) ELEVATION



PROPOSED SIDE (WEST) ELEVATION FROM TERRACE



PROPOSED REAR (SOUTH) ELEVATION



PROPOSED SIDE (EAST) ELEVATION FROM HOTEL CAR PARK

1 PROPOSED ELEVATIONS
Scale: 1:100

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