

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

EXTRA PARKING SPACES COMING TO VILLAGE CENTRE

More car parking spaces will be created in Standish with the upgrading of an existing car park in the village centre.

The number of spaces at Quakers Place car park will be expanded from around 18 now to about 30 – with it becoming a short-stay car park to increase the number of vehicles which can use it throughout the day. It will remain free of charge to park there.

Work to clear vegetation around the sides of the car park – and fell some trees on the site to maximise the space available – is due to be done next week, with the car park closed for five days from tomorrow (Monday, February 24th) while the work is carried out.

The large trees that front on to School Lane will remain in place and more trees will be planted on open space at nearby Cranborne Close to mitigate the loss of trees at Quakers Place.

Construction of the new car park, which will have a new surface and be lined out in spaces, is due to take place this summer. Introduction of time restrictions will make it a short-stay car park (3 hours maximum, Monday to Saturday.)

A lack of car parking has been a problem in Standish for many years – especially with the increase in population through recent housebuilding – and this scheme will, hopefully, improve this.

Standish Voice and Standish councillors have lobbied the council for several years for parking improvements, with ideas to create a small car park and park on Southlands Rec and to create a temporary car park on derelict land on Preston Road both not being taken forward for various reasons.

The council says of this scheme: “The improved facilities will provide a safe and convenient place for short trips to the access the centre of Standish, also preventing overflow on surrounding streets.

“The available space will be maximised, with the area opened up with more natural surveillance and lighting.

“The introduction of limited waiting times also mean that more vehicles can utilise the same number of spaces throughout the day, ensuring an equal and steady turnover.”

A spokesperson for Standish Voice said: “Parking in Standish has been a problem for many years and, hopefully, this scheme will help.

"It won't totally solve the problem but the new spaces and making the car park short stay will increase the chance of people finding a place to park if they come into Standish.

“Keeping the mature trees that line School Lane was a priority and we wanted new trees to be planted in place of any which were removed.”

The images show the car park, the new layout plan, a map of where vegetation will be removed, and the site of the new trees at Cranborne Close.

STANDISH VOICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Standish Voice held its AGM last month and five members of our 15-person committee were re-elected. They were Fran Aiken, Allan Foster, Sarah Djali, Diane Gore and Kathy Robertson. Gill Foster was re-elected as Chair; Paul Ogden was re-elected as Vice Chair and Karen Bliss was re-elected as Treasurer.

The 2024 accounts were accepted and you can read them here (<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Accounts-2024.pdf>) . You can read the Chair's report here (<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/SV-Chairs-Annual-Report-2025-AGM.pdf>) and the Vice Chair's report here (<http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/SV-Vice-Chairs-Annual-Report-2025-AGM.pdf>) .

Thanks to everyone who attended.

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STANDISH SPIRE RENOVATIONS BEGIN

Work on the £500,000 scheme to renovate St Wilfrid's Church spire has begun after a huge fundraising campaign.

The spire – a landmark for Standish and the surrounding area for more than 150 years – will be given a full restoration after architects discovered the need for vital repairs.

The church launched a Save Standish Spire appeal and organised fundraising events and activities which have brought in tens of thousands of pounds for the repairs, which will include the broken church clock.

The proceeds have been supplemented by a large donation from the church itself and a substantial grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which will also pay for a project to promote the history of the Grade I-listed building to the community.

The £500,000 target for the work has almost been reached, with more fundraising activities planned, but work can now start on the renovation, which is set to last for eight or nine months.

A huge scaffolding project to encase the 130ft spire so work inside the structure can take place is underway with disruption expected in the church grounds. The church bells will also fall silent for the duration of the work.

The church is also asking the public not to use the Parish Hall car park unless on church business.

Rev Andrew Holliday, Rector of St Wilfrid's CE Church, said: "We are delighted that this vital work on the spire can now begin after our fundraising appeal was so successful. The community has been amazingly generous and donations both big and small have helped us to supplement the grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the church's own funding to reach our target.

"The spire is a hugely important part of our village's heritage. It is a landmark for people which can be seen for miles around and its preservation has captured the imagination of many people in Standish and, indeed, around the country.

"It is essential that we preserve our church and we are relieved that we can begin this work quickly."

David Johnson, Chairman of the Save Standish Spire appeal, said: "Our own parish funds built up to maintain the church have contributed to the costs of this renovation, but I would like to thank everyone who has personally given to the appeal. Their generous donations have helped to preserve an iconic landmark in our historic village so it can be enjoyed by generations to come."

You can still contribute to the appeal by following this link to the church's Just Giving page: ** <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/save-standish-spire>
(<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/save-standish-spire>)

or send a cheque with 'Spire' on the back to The Parish Office, St Wilfrid's Parish Hall, Church Street, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0JT.

GIVE US YOUR VIEWS OF THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Standish Christmas Market will return later this year on Saturday, December 6th.

If you have any suggestions about how to improve the Market, please email us at **
standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com
(mailto:standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com)

Traders can sign up for an applications opening reminder by filling in ** this form
(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScM52HEqSP9wS_MHM5oHbzCVLiQ0g3Ji0BzSno9-TWUdvT4Nw/viewform)

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DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH OFF-ROADERS?

Have you seen anti-social off-road biking in Standish? Please report it.

Greater Manchester Police has a dedicated team to tackle the problem and information from the public is valuable to help stop anti-social behaviour.

If you have witnessed or been affected by off-road vehicles, please report it on ** this link (<https://www.gmp.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/vehicle-nuisance-involving-cars-bikes-and-mopeds>)

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DEVELOPER IS THREATENED WITH COURT

A Standish housebuilder has been threatened with court action for failing to complete work to benefit our community.

The creation of children's play areas, allotments and a path to St Wilfrid's Primary School were meant to be completed by the end of last year on land behind Standish Leisure Centre – but was not even started.

Wigan Council has now served a planning notice to order the work be completed in the next 12 weeks or court action may follow.

Standish councillors have been calling for action by the council and the local authority now says: “Following the failure to comply with the necessary planning requirements and planning condition attached to the most recent approved Section 96A Application, the Council have served a Breach of Condition Notice on the developer.”

The notice requires the work to be completed in full by mid-May.

WE NOW HAVE OVER 2,000 MEMBERS!

Standish Voice now has more than 2,000 members across Standish and 14,000 followers on Facebook.

Like or follow us on Facebook to read regular news about Standish.

If you want to join as a member, fill in this ** form here (<https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=1337061cfbe69643b6e2cac48&id=ac125e4ab5>)

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MEDIA FOCUS ON VILLAGE CENTRE CONGESTION

Congestion in Standish has been worse than usual over the past couple of months, mainly due to roadworks, especially on Pepper Lane, Wigan Road and School Lane.

The local press has written an article on the increasing traffic problems in the village and Standish Voice gave this response which was included in the article...

“Congestion in Standish has always been bad at rush hours and when roadworks are in place, especially at the crossroads. But adding 30% more local traffic through the recent huge housebuilding programme has massively exacerbated this.

“It is not something that can be easily solved as there are no viable options to reduce congestion in the centre of Standish by improving roads.

“We need an end to further housebuilding in our community until the highways situation is solved, along with the other improvements in infrastructure, including our overwhelmed GP surgery.

“Wigan Council has acknowledged the huge problems overdevelopment has caused in Standish by refusing two planning applications by house builders recently and its planning department needs to robustly defend those responsible decisions if they are appealed.

“Standish is a wonderful place to live in and developers are lining up to build even more homes here, but adding almost 2,000 more houses to a 4,500-home village in less than a decade is swamping our community and driving everyone who lives here to the brink of despair.”

** To read the article, click here (https://www.wigantoday.net/community/angry-standish-residents-on-their-traffic-woes-vox-pop-4959872?fbclid=IwY2xjawImYWxleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHRTbXt-lyqwtTJh01nMViglUeylP5wxcuC1xAF6YpV8MCuYhD0xt3mRSJw_aem_uHDzHAz2jX7Wrj0huc4zzA)

Fairy Glen in Appley Bridge is to get an upgrade with almost £100,000-worth of ecological improvements.

The popular wood and waterfall walk has been a victim of its own success in recent years, regularly attracting a lot of visitors.

This has led to deterioration of some of its footpaths which the money - which comes from West Lancashire Council - is to be put towards.

Follow ** this link (https://www.wigantoday.net/news/politics/council/fairy-glen-upgrade-thousands-to-be-spent-on-local-beauty-spot-4998248?IYA-mail=069fc23d-66fa-428e-9e34-d4970f85d9c9&utm_campaign=Daily-2022025&utm_medium=email&utm_source=IYA-DailyDigest&utm_term=news-link&source=email&sourceUserid=4488aaba-8df3-4c9c-862b-4a3a6651b70f&fbclid=IwY2xjawImW1VleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHXm7X3JRKW856T93b8DKyPicrNfLAz85DwazgeRkY2wF9WHgRB7sCMifFw_aem_E1ytsdEW5zAtH_-mdwTJfQ)

for a news story with more information.

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 (<mailto:standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com?subject=Membership%2FNewsletter%20changes>)