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Covering Wycombe, High Wycombe & Chiltern District

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Outrage at £30k food bill

Exclusive by Jasmine Rapson

FAT cat council chiefs forked out almost £30,000 feeding councillors during evening meetings in five years, the Bucks Free Press can reveal - in the same week foodbanks announced they are struggling to cope with increased demand over the summer holidays.

Figures obtained by a Freedom of Information request show that from 2012 to 2017

£29,034 was spent on providing food and drink for Wycombe District councillors at meetings over the past half-decade.

The tax year from 2012 to 2013 was the most expensive as WDC paid £7,240.52 to feed its members compared to 2016 to 2017, during which £4,906.44 was spent on refreshments - £2,300 less than five years ago.

The statistics - which have caused outrage - were revealed just days after High Wycombe foodbank One Can Trust issued an appeal for

more donations as families whose children receive free school meals struggle to cope over the summer holidays.

East Wycombe Independent councillor for WDC, Julia Wassell, questioned why councillors were not paying for their own food out of their basic allowance - paid to them by the council.

According to the Wycombe District Council website each councillor gets a basic allowance of £6,198, however councillors in a higher po-

sitions will receive a special responsibility allowance.

Cllr Wassell said: "I always felt we should bring and share. If I brought a packet of biscuits I could offer them round. We could all put a pound in the machine and get a coffee and snack. We are all in our groups, the Conservatives, Labour, East Wycombe Independents - we could all bring a snack and share it with our group. I don't think it's a justifiable expense."

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Akinfenwa scores own goal as Wycombe lose 1-0



By Rob Stevens

WYCOMBE WANDERERS lost their final pre-season match away to Maidenhead United last week. United beat League Two Wanderers 1-0 in front of more than 800 spectators on Friday evening. Wycombe were edged out on the wet July evening, with a late Adebayo Akinfenwa own goal from an inswinging Sam Barratt corner the only difference between the two sides. A wet first half saw no real chances of note with neither side dealing with the slippery conditions well. Harry Pritchard stung the palms of Scott Brown while Hyde flicked a header wide as the hosts ended the half on top. Dayle Southwell, who looked most lively for the visitors, produced a scary moment for the United defence on 51 minutes as his low cross just about evaded everyone as it begged to be tapped in. The lone goal came from an in swinging corner from Barratt in the 79th minute with most are pointing the finger at the unfortunate Akinfenwa for scoring an own goal.



Fans can help players battle for good finish

WYCOMBE Wanderers fans have been urged to support the Chairboys in numbers this season.

Boss Gareth Ainsworth insisted the supporters are the 12th man the players will need to help battle for top table finish.

"Fans are the main thing," stated Ainsworth.

"Without the fans there is no football club.

"It's not just about the players and the manager, the fans are so important.

"And we need as many Wycombe

Wanderers fans to support the team as possible this season."

The final batch of season tickets were posted to fans on Saturday, August 1.

Anyone who has purchased a season ticket and has not received it by today (Friday) should call the club's ticket office on 01494 4411188 to arrange a paper ticket.

Wanderers face Lincoln City on Saturday before welcoming Sky Bet Championship side Fulham to Adams Park next Tuesday for the first round of the Carabao Cup.



Gareth Ainsworth wants supporters to back the Chairboys this season

WANDERERS: Defender will stay until 2020 Stewart signs new contract

By Courtney Friday

GARETH AINSWORTH admitted Wanderers' centre back Anthony Stewart's future could be away from the club after the talented 24-year-old penned a fresh three-year deal last week.

The Wycombe boss was delighted to see Stewart commit himself to Adams Park until the summer of 2020 following a string of sensational performances last season.

The Chairboys lost Aaron Pierre to League One club Northampton Town over the summer, but Ainsworth admitted Stewart's potential could also take him to a higher level.

"He's a great asset to the club," stated Ainsworth.

"Anthony is a centre back who I really wanted to keep hold of.

"I can see him going on to play at a higher level but he still has a lot to learn."

Stewart, who scored three goals in 41 appearances under Ainsworth last season, rose up through the Chairboys' academy ranks.

The manager continued: "He has been at the club for a long time.

"He needs to work on his consistency and he needs to stay injury free.

"But he has a lot of potential and I'm sure he is a player whose name is on the lips of lots of managers at a higher level."

Wycombe welcome Lincoln City to Adams Park in their opening League Two clash on Saturday (3pm KO).

The Imps have been touted as one of the frontrunners for promotion this season but Ainsworth remained confident in getting a positive result.

"They're going to bring loads of



Anthony Stewart in pre-season action

fans," added Ainsworth.

"We know they are one of the league favourites this year.

"Pre-season has been good but I have had enough of it now, I'm ready for the first game.

"We have had a good week in training.

"Everyone is feeling positive and the lads are all looking forward to getting out there on Saturday."

Wanderers finished in ninth place last season following a sensational surge up the League Two table towards the end of the campaign.

And Ainsworth stressed the Chairboys are capable of battling at the top end of the division again this year.

"Last season we dropped mid season and finished like a train," stated Ainsworth.

"That momentum is a fantastic thing to have.

"Because of the budget that I worked on for the last few years we are one of the smaller sides but that is not an excuse.

"We don't want to be the underdogs, we want to be able to keep hold of the squad that we have and

add some quality.

Ainsworth secured the loan signing of Queens Park Rangers' youngster Jack Williams on a five-month deal last week.

And the 44-year-old admitted Williams could be in line for his first start on Saturday.

The manager concluded: "You don't come here to be a fringe player, you have to be ready.

"He's in our squad and he needs to be up for playing first-team football.

"We know that he's going to be ready to play.

Young QPR player joins on short loan

YOUNG Queens Park Rangers left-back Jack Williams has been handed a five-month loan deal by Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth following a successful trial.

The 19-year-old linked up with the Chairboys for the pre-season friendlies with AFC Wimbledon and Maidenhead United and has now completed a longer-term switch to provide extra strength for the squad ahead of the start of the 2017/18 season.

Ainsworth said: "Jack's got a lot of potential which we've seen in the two games, in training and also in our training match at QPR when he was on the other team.

"He's a talented defender but he can also get forward well which gives us another option down the left-hand side.

"He will learn a lot from Joe Jacobson and from being involved in a first-team squad on a day-to-day basis, and I'm sure he will grab his chance with both hands whenever he's called upon to help the team.

"We have a very good relationship with QPR, a club which is of course close to my heart from my playing days, and I'd like to thank Ian Holloway and his staff for allowing us to bring Jack to Adams Park."

Jack will wear number 24 during his time with the club.

Will De Havilland heads to Aldershot

CHAIRBOYS defender Will De Havilland has moved to National League side Aldershot Town on a one-month loan deal.

The 22-year-old made 23 appearances in his debut season for the Chairboys after joining last summer, and makes the switch to benefit from first-team football with Gary Waddock's Shots.

Will's loan expires on 28th August, though he will be eligible to play in Aldershot's fixture that day.

SPORT

Rowing

U23 storms to World
Championship victory
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READY FOR KICK- OFF?

- Ainsworth targets strong start to new season
- Chairboys lose final pre-season game
- Latest transfer news from Adams Park

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