

You can keep your stadium!

AS a former member of both Wycombe Wanderers and its supporters club, a past Chairman of Sands Rovers and a life vice-president of the Wycombe League, I feel "involved" enough to comment on the proposal to sell Loakes Park.

Whatever the late Frank Adams would feel about the disposal of the asset he gave to the town as well as the club I dread to think! If it has got to be sold the town badly needs extensions to its general hospital not yet another commercial complex.

"Commercial" seems to me to be the overriding consideration in all the dealings in this affair. Whilst involved with Sands Rovers, doing our best to provide a facility for local youth with meagre assistance from the local authority, I wrote twice to the local "landlord" asking him to see if he could find us a piece of ground to raise our own stadium on and never even had an acknowledgement of the letters.

I can see why now — it wasn't a commercial proposition! Now the residents of Sands are to be asked to put up with a Saturday afternoon etc, with increased traffic both vehicle and pedestrian and possibly the morons who create such a disturbance in the Octagon on big match days, invading this area.

The "landlord" will not be disturbed. He lives over the hill, out of the way. In a few words — "Thank you, NO, we do not want your stadium here." — K. G. Pearce, Lane End Road, Sands.

SO the Wanderers are moving out of town and hoping to join a much-troubled Football League.

It can now be revealed that, following secret negotiations between interested heads of state, L'Oakes Parc has been selected as the Northern Premier exit for the proposed Channel Tunnel. A local spokesman was quoted last week — "There is a long way to go but we are now driving on the right lines." This can be taken to refer to the lesser-known strategem to run cars and express trains from here to there (et vice versa).

It will now be realised why the "magic roundabout" was developed nearby, ideal for traffic that wants to go in both directions at once.

Wycombe needs the "League" (French — *ligue/conspiracy*) like the channel needs a tunnel. Why join another sinking ship? — Almost Litrit (name and address notified).

AFTER being a Wycombe Wanderers supporter with my husband for 53 years, I am shocked and upset to think of having no Loakes Park. It is a big part of Wycombe and always has been.

But, of course, to Mr Brian Lee, not being a Wycombe man, it wouldn't mean a thing to him.

I do feel poor Mr Frank Adams would turn in his grave.

My husband first took my son at the age of three to Loakes Park and he is still a keen supporter. The Wanderers will never be the same anywhere else and there are many who will not be able to make the long journey to the other end of the town.

So much has been spent on the pitch in recent years and the young loyal supporters did a lot of painting, etc, in their spare time.

Mr Lee speaks of going up into something better. Not without spending a lot of money we won't.

We could be left with a plush club, etc, and no supporters. After all it is the supporters who help keep the club going and pay the wages. It should have been put to the vote.

— Mrs E. Turner, Honeysuckle Road, Widmer End.

HOW can Wycombe Wanderers say they did not know the Wycombe Health Authority was interested in acquiring land for Wycombe Hospital. It has been common knowledge for the past 15 to 20 years.

Wycombe people who help finance Wycombe Wanderers by buying lottery tickets, should think very seriously before buying any more. They are supporting a club that has no intention of helping the people of this town. — M. Miles (Address notified).

THE public needs to voice their concern over the possible use of the Loakes Park football ground for the building of two non-food warehouses when the site is so desperately needed for the development of health services associated with Wycombe Hospital.

The whole problem rests on the decision of the local Planning Committee. I suggest that the development of the health services is of far greater importance to the community than two retail warehouses which could be sited elsewhere.

The public could help the cause of the health authority by getting in touch with their local councillor.

Two other avenues of approach are to attend Health Authority or local Community Health Council meetings.

Unfortunately both these bodies meet during the day when most people are working.

If readers are concerned about their Health Service and are particularly concerned about the present situation of the Loakes Park football ground, why not say so either through the media or to one of the two bodies mentioned above. I do trust they will. — R. Borrett, Eastfield Road, Princes Risborough.

MANY years ago Wycombe Hospital hoped for more land, hoping for Loakes Park. They are still after land and what better place for a car park with parking charges going to the hospital.

Wycombe Wanderers got the place for next to nothing. How bloody greedy can you get? — E. C. Wise, Eaton Avenue, High Wycombe.

AS a Wanderers supporter for 19 years, I am disgusted at the proposed move to Pyatts Farm, Sands.

First, Mr Lee says this is to prepare Wycombe for entry to the Football League. How does he know what the League are planning to do? They don't seem to know themselves! If this is the aim do you move from a ground of near League standard to an unknown quantity with a capacity only half that of what you are leaving?

Second, you have to look at what happened to other clubs who have had to move grounds. Romford, Ilford and Hillingdon have ceased to exist. Slough and Barking have had tremendous problems and still have poor grounds and Aylesbury have been fined £5,000 by their league for being months overdue with moving into their ground. I'm sure they all thought the moves were going to be far easier than they turned out to be.

Third, the total disregard for the supporters is disgraceful. Anyone without a car will not be able to go and many others combine a trip to the ground with shopping expeditions. The car parking argument is an irrelevance since the town centre parking is both adequate and near to the ground.

Finally, I wonder what Frank Adams, who gave us the ground so that we would never be without a home, would have thought! — PB, Totteridge.

THE future of Loakes Park is of vital importance to everyone living within the Wycombe health district. Without this land Wycombe Hospital cannot develop and expand as it must, not only to maintain the present level of services but also to meet the needs of the proposed increase in population. The Department of the Environment has approved the building of 1,300 additional homes in the Wycombe area.

The car parking situation at the hospital is already a nightmare and can only be resolved by the acquisition of more land. The Health Authority is proposing imaginative plans for the Loakes Park site which will be of great benefit to us all and I hope your readers will join with the Wycombe Community Health Council in giving the chairman, Mr Camp, and the health authority whole hearted support. — Mrs J. Wood-Smith, Chairman, Wycombe Community Health Council.

I OBJECT to the proposed re-development of Loakes Park and the establishment of a new football ground. Why should Sands suffer? It is quiet, I can walk the streets day and night without fear of violence, I can park my car without problems as can visiting friends.

No one can convince me visiting fans would not find this equally convenient.

I am not anti-football, not anti-Wycombe. I was born here 30-plus years ago and fully expect to die here. One of my fondest memories of Wycombe's marvellous cup game against Middlesbrough and Jack Charlton's subsequent complaints against the slope. S. V. Piper, Carlsbrooke Avenue, High Wycombe.