

The Loakes Park debate

Back the trustees over big move

Special
sport
postbag

AS a member of Wycombe Wanderers for the past 30 years I feel that I must put into perspective some of the criticisms levelled at the club.

The late Mr Frank Adams purchased the freehold of Loakes Park and vested the title in four trustees.

This was to ensure that the ground would not be taken as an asset should the club be taken over by a consortium such as exists in most professional clubs.

When the Health Authority expressed an interest in buying the ground the club was willing to move if a suitable site could be obtained.

Various venues were considered, including one at Terriers.

When the area off London Road, known as Dartford Street, Kent Street and Park Street was being demolished, Frank Adams suggested in a letter to the BFP that the site would be suitable to accommodate a grandstand for Wycombe Wanderers with a pitch on the adjoining Rye.

An extension to the existing car park at the swimming pool could cater for visiting supporters.

This suggestion fell on deaf ears, possibly because the Borough Council had

recently been defeated by the Rye Protection Society over the plan for the inner relief road over the edge of the Rye.

Frank Adams was in favour of re-location!

Health Service cuts deferred the proposed hospital extension.

Loakes Park was relieved.

It was inevitable that such a prime site would attract the interest of property developers.

The trustees, one of whom is Frank Adams' son, have obviously received an offer they could not refuse!

The site for the new ground, I submit, is ideally situated at the edge of an industrial estate.

A better location would have been near the Asda complex at Cressex, but the council, to my knowledge, has never given the club much help.

For over 100 years the officers and committee of Wycombe Wanderers have successfully managed the club, bringing great credit to the town by their achievements.

It is one of the few clubs which have remained financially viable despite declining gates.

I submit that if the trustees feel their decision to move is in the interests of the club, then their decision should be supported.

E. B. Smith, North Road, Widmer End.

What on earth is wrong?

I'M writing after reading some of the ridiculous comments made by supporters over Wycombe Wanderers' proposed move. What on earth is wrong with them all?

The club is about to embark on one of the most exciting events of its entire history and all they do is criticise.

You would think Wycombe were moving to Outer Mongolia, instead of a couple of miles up the road.

I don't drive but I will most certainly go there, even if I have to walk.

I've followed Wycombe for over 21 years and have always wanted to see them play in the Football League. I'm delighted that this could be possible (even if it is a remote chance).

It is these people who are selfish — not the club who are endeavouring to bring a better class of football to the town.

There is still a gap, as York City demonstrated.

My only complaint is that I think the ground should be sold to the hospital whose use of it is surely far more important.

Dave Finch, 3 Saltash Close, Loudwater.

