

Stadium anger simmers

PEOPLE are still angry about Wycombe Wanderers move to a new stadium at Hillbottom Road, Sands — three-and-a-half years after plans were first submitted.

The contractors, McKenna and Lehan, moved on to the site in April and are now working on the third stage of the project — the foundations — ahead of schedule. It is hoped to have the 6,000-seater stadium ready for the 1990/91 season.

Householders and businesses have fought the development since plans were first unveiled in January 1986, but are now resigned to the development.

Mr Albert Smith, of Lane End Road, said: "When I first heard about the plans, I was extremely worried and protested against the development, but now I realise there is nothing more we can do."

Those living nearby see the situation as an example of the Government's lack of commitment to Green issues.

"It is an invasion of our rights," said one resident who preferred not to be named. This was a reference to the fact that Wycombe District Council refused to agree to the scheme and it was only a direct intervention by the then Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, that ensured the move went ahead on protected Green Belt land.

Residents are also worried by the prospect of increased traffic and thousands of fans invading the area.

Mrs Trisha Yaseen, owner of

the U.K. General Stores in Lane End Road, said: "What chance have I got on my own when thousands of supporters turn up on a Saturday afternoon?"

Mrs Margaret Price, a Lane End Road resident for 40 years, added: "It's unfair. I can't understand how it went ahead when there was so much opposition to it from the start."

Chairman of Wycombe Wanderers, builder Ivor Beeks, said: "We have not received any complaints."