

COMMENT

Blue day for the Blues

EVER since Ivor Beeks took over the helm at Wycombe Wanderers not even the most cynical supporter could complain that the county's premier soccer club has not been thinking big.

After more than 25 years, the wrangle about a new ground for the Wanderers was resolved, to the benefit of both the club and Wycombe General Hospital.

The new stadium at Sands will be the envy of teams in league and non-league football alike.

Additionally, Mr Beeks and his directors have tried, within a sensible budget, to sign the most talented players available. Why, otherwise, should a former player of Martin O'Neill's calibre have agreed to become the Blues' manager?

The foundations have been largely built for a side to compete in the Fourth Division of the Football League. That will undoubtedly attract additional prestige and trade to the district.

But, it seems, the councillors and planning officers of Wycombe District Council do not possess the wide-ranging vision of Mr Beeks. In refusing the club's application for a training pitch abutting the stadium at Sands, the council has made a wrong decision.

The ruling means that the Wanderers will probably have to train at the council's Handy Cross leisure centre. Clearly, that is not good enough.

Further, the club will not now be able to institute its programme of involving the community's youngsters more closely with the Blues.

A new, revised application should be made. And our elected representatives should then revise their thinking.