

Wanderers hit by pitch refusal blow

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been dealt a kick in the teeth by local planning officials, who have refused to grant permission for a plastic training pitch at the club's new Adams Park home.

Now the county's top side will have nowhere to train once they leave Loakes Park at the end of the season and may have to use the public pitches at Handy Cross to prepare for their latest bid to reach the Football League.

Unlike Yeovil Town, who have had the full support of their local authority since their move from the historic Huish ground, Wycombe have been treated shabbily by councillors after trying to provide new facilities for club and community alike.

Now Wanderers officials are likely to accept the situation, at least in the short term, and find an alternative use for the buildings which were to be changing rooms for local sides using the artificial surface at Adams Park.

"It makes you wonder whether this council wants a football club in the town at all. We had to go to appeal to find a new ground and now we have been stopped here," said Wanderers' chairman Ivor Beeks.

On Thursday, Wycombe District Council's Development Control Committee refused the application because it felt the pitch and its four floodlight columns would intrude on the area of open countryside around the new Adams Park ground in Hillbottom Road, Sands.

The application followed a previous refusal for a similar plan last November. A meeting of the committee ordered a site visit by members last month after residents and conservationists' protests.

The club planned to use the pitch for training and its community sport programme to encourage more youngsters to be involved with the Wanderers.

Councillors voted unanimously to refuse the plan.