

Residents' worst fears realised

YOU were kind enough to allow me to express my views in your columns back in 1987 on the then proposed site for the new ground for Wycombe Wanderers, and I would be grateful to be allowed to add to them now.

I'm still convinced that a serious violation of the Area Plan and Green Belt was allowed to be steamrollered through, and looked at in the long term, from the vicinity of Adams Park, Lane End is in the view on the horizon and ere long will become part of High Wycombe — in just the same way as the village of Sands I was born in has been swallowed up.

In all the euphoria of the first two matches played on the new ground, the expressed fears of the local residents have been fully realised. We all said the most serious factors would be traffic with inadequate on-site parking, and grossly restricted access.

I witnessed intending spectators getting into the most irate moods with each other vying for kerbside parking in Pinewood Road, which has a gradient of 1 in 10 in places. This was after they found that all the kerbs had gone in Mill End Road, Chapel Lane, New Road, Roundwood Road, Hylton Road, Coombe Rise, Lane End Road, Warwick Avenue, Rydal Way etc. The time was then 7.45pm, some 15 minutes AFTER kick-off.

To be fair to the police, they did manage to restrict parking in Lane End Road to one side, this being the main through route to the Lane End area, and more vitally, so that the emergency services stood some chance of access should they be called that way.

This procedure was missing on the Saturday I must add. I still fail to understand why at the meeting held in the town in 1987 the representative of the police stated categorically on the night "We have no objections to the proposal". Why on earth did no one come and talk to the residents in the area? They KNEW what would happen!

Readers may recall that in my original letter I felt that all considerations were overridden by commercial ones. In that respect any resident in the area who now tries to sell their property will find the commercial side of that has gone.

It's here, we've got to put up with it for all the reasons that I've stated, and I'm sure many others would like to add to this. On match days it's not going to be easy for us.

Groundsman earns plaudits

I WAS one of the many who attended the first game at Adams Park Wycombe Wanderers entertained Nottingham Forest.

It looks a great stadium and I cannot for the life of me understand why permission has been refused to add a training area to complement the rest of the stadium.

There were many thank-yous and accolades given out in the programme and via the loudspeaker when you could hear it, but I did not see any mention of the superb work which had been carried out by Rod Lavers, the groundsman. He had managed to attain a superb playing surface comparable to any First Division club.

Rod is a quiet person who is dedicated to his job. Well done, Rod. Wycombe can be justly proud of your work.

Mrs C Hobbs
Southfield Road
Flackwell Heath

I must congratulate the club on the first-class facilities they will enjoy, despite where it is; at the end (at present) of an industrial estate, where, strange as it may seem, people are trying to carry on their trades. Some of whom have already had to erect barriers across their car parks so that they remain private.

I am sad to see that Mr Beeks is reported in the Bucks Free Press as saying, and I quote: "The supporters won't give a hoot about Loakes Park when they see what we've got here." It may surprise him to learn that as a former member of the club, I very much DO care what happens there.

It's part of the town centre I've looked on as 'home' wherever I've travelled in the world, and I don't want to see some monstrosity erected there.

Let's have something that's acceptable to the majority of townsfolk. Perhaps some people in the construction industry "don't give a hoot" what is built, again, as long as it's commercial for them.

K G Pearce
Lane End Road
Sands
High Wycombe