

Parking problems blight new stadium

AS a local councillor I supported the decision made by Wycombe District Council to refuse permission to relocate Wycombe Wanderers Football Club at Sands.

Whilst wishing the club well, one of my reasons for opposing this particular site was the traffic implications caused by the narrow roads in the area and the shortfall in on-site car parking at the pitch.

Last week with the two promotion matches, my worst fears came true and local residents experienced tremendous difficulties with on-street parking blocking accesses, and even roads.

When the inspector for the Department of the Environment granted on appeal the club's application to build a stadium with a maximum capacity of 6,000 and only 320 parking spaces, there was bound to be a problem.

Following the appeal decision, concerned councillors held a meeting with representatives of the club, the police, the local bus and train officials and the Buckinghamshire County Council engineers' department, which is responsible for roads.

The club was very helpful and arrangements for public transport and road management were discussed. Another meeting was held in July 1990 and is to be reconvened in September to discuss how things have worked in practice.

Obviously, the matches so far have been promotional and very well attended, giving the worst possible scenario. However, with options very limited, urgent attention will be given to see what improvements can be made to alleviate the problems being caused to local residents.

Cllr Mrs V Letheren
District Councillor for
West Wycombe and Sands Ward
Chairman of the
Planning Applications Panel