

Wanderers should not be so selfish

ALONG with many other residents of High Wycombe, I am delighted that Wycombe Wanderers have reached the final of the FA Trophy.

However, I must take issue with Chris Tranter who assumes that supporters of the Blues must also support the further development of Adams Park as being the way forward.

I firmly believe that the current ground in its present location will be totally inadequate in the not-so-distant future, if the ambitions of the club are realised.

Does a genuine supporter want the club to be restricted to a gate of 6,000 when they reach football league status? Will the provision of training facilities and a slightly larger car park overcome the main objections to the present site?

What price a modern but inadequate stadium when the success strived for succeeds? Will it then be the fault of the residents of Sands or the failure of the directors to convince the planners to look at the overall needs of the town for sporting facilities.

The local authority is proud of its achievement with its joint venture scheme to provide a golf course, now can they sit down with all interested parties and provide a properly planned sports complex.

The directors of Wycombe Wanderers have a responsibility to the town to use their present deserved success to push for a sensible solution to all of the district's sporting needs and not to be so narrow-minded to think that the only thing that matters is the success of the Wanderers. The town has had its successes on other sporting arenas!

Marilyn Sayer's plea for the provision of proper athletic facilities shows the flaw in the football supporters' special pleading for full facilities for the few who represent the town at soccer.

Reg Rundle
Sands
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Emotion should play no part in decision

YOUR leader writer is mistaken in welcoming the decision of the Department of the Environment (DoE) not to call in plans for the training pitch and car park adjacent to Adams Park.

The town is divided between supporters of the Green Belt and supporters of Wycombe Wanderers, so the application should be decided by an impartial person – a professional who can sift the facts from the emotions.

The decision to put Adams Park at Sands was made by an Inspector from the DoE. The DoE should continue to take responsibility for the site.

The easy way out for the officers and planning committee would be to: "put the application on ice" and leave the applicants to appeal for non-determination, but I suspect that the professionalism of the officers and the threat of costs does not allow this.

This means that our councillors are being asked to show a thorough knowledge of planning, law and advice and a considerable maturity of judgement. This is a lot to ask of a new planning applications panel. Even if the decision goes straight to the planning and development committee, there are bound to be a number of new councillors involved.

The Chiltern Society keeps watch on the Green Belt all round High Wycombe. The decision on the training pitch application will have repercussions far beyond Sands. It will establish a precedent for other sites where sporting activities are wanted just inside the Green Belt.

I urge all the candidates for the district council elections to have a look at Adams Park and its surroundings. Go to the planning office and read the files. A reasoned, unemotional decision for this site is essential.

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