

I can't help feeling suspicious about club

THERE appears to be a misconception in the debate on Adams Park that the town is divided into two groups – one group supporting Wycombe Wanderers, the other supporting the Green Belt.

There is a third group composed of people like myself who can be found on the terraces or in the stand at most games, but who do not wish to see further development at Hillbottom Road.

In the Sands area there is suspicion of the football club. Firstly, the club decided to build a stadium for 6,000 people with totally inadequate parking.

The directors of the club, all excellent businessmen, must have carried out some market research which must have told them that even if they only attracted similar crowds to those at Loakes Park, an absolute minimum of 600 spaces would have been necessary.

A further 200 spaces will alleviate the present parking problems, but certainly will not solve them, especially if, as many of us hope they attract larger crowds next season as league leaders.

If that happens will the club return again to the council asking for the Sands Valley to be opened up a little more, then a little more? A well practised 'salam' tactic.

The second cause for suspicion is the application for a training pitch which, although it is not essential for it to be adjacent to the stadium, it is certainly useful.

The need for such a facility was obvious when Loakes Park was vacated. Where did the club think it would be sited after the move? Why was it not in the original application? A strange omission. Local residents believe that the Sands 'mountain' has been left there deliberately to look unsightly so that eventually it will be conceded that anything is an improvement, even a training pitch with floodlights.

Wycombe Wanderers have shown a singular lack of public-relations skills in this affair. They have had opportunities to write to your newspaper, or they could have called a public meeting in Sands to explain their position, and especially how they saw the future. The club has remained silent, thereby fuelling suspicion.

The present euphoria, with the whole town wishing the team well at Wembley, including all the protesters, I am sure, presents an excellent opportunity for the club to remedy past public relations failures and present its case. I am sure your columns will be open.

Brian Stenner

County councillor

Booker and Castlefield Division