

CLUB MAKES ITS PITCH FOR TRAINING GROUND

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club will find out tomorrow if it can have a training pitch built next to its stadium.

Planners visited the site last week to estimate the likely impact on Green Belt land at Adams Park in Hillbottom Road, High Wycombe.

But conservationists say there should be no more development on the land which is also in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The original stadium was built after the Environment Secretary overturned Wycombe District Council's refusal.

Club bosses argue the pitch would be open to schools and clubs and new spaces will ease parking.

Wanderers' general director Brian Lee said the club is held in high esteem, especially after winning the FA Trophy, and deserves to develop.

"The club is led by a caring group of directors who accept their responsibilities for green issues and will ensure that planning requirements are met," he said.

Cllr Andrew Green is in favour of a pitch and argued: "Although techni-

By CHRIS DIGNAN

cally it is against Green Belt policy, it has advantages for residents with the 202 extra car parking spaces, which is a positive aspect which outweighs the negative aspects, especially because the stadium is there anyway."

But he would like to see the ground level of the proposed pitch reduced.

Karen Isaacs of the High Wycombe Society said: "We think it will set a precedent for further development in the Green Belt and it won't solve the problems there."

"It is 25ft above pitch level which will make it very intrusive and the light pylons will be 77ft above road level. And we don't feel the 200 car spaces will make very much difference because they have estimated they need 1,000."

Time to pass it

THIS week should finally see the result of the Wycombe Wanderers' planning application for a training pitch.

It is the one goal, apart from league status, that has eluded them in a magnificent season in which the whole town got behind the team.

We urge the planning councillors to remember the scenes outside the town hall on the Sunday after the Blues won the FA Trophy. Thousands chanted 'We want our training pitch'.

Those who heard it cannot be in any doubt that the majority of the community wants the training pitch. It will be an asset to all of us, not just the club. It is an investment in the future for so many of our children.

So it is time the council got off its backside and gave the Blues the pass it deserves to hammer home another memorable victory.

Famous face is needed for fete

A SCHOOL fete urgently needs a famous face to open it on Saturday after Wycombe Wanderers' stars said they could not help.

Terriers Middle School in Highworth Close, High Wycombe, is making the eleventh-hour plea after being told on Friday that the Blues were booked up.

Organisers held an emergency meeting in the playground yesterday morning and decided to appeal for help.

The school's Parents and Teachers' Association organiser Margaret Mallin said: "We are desperately looking for someone to open our fete and judge our fancy dress competition."

Wycombe Wanderers' club secretary John Goldsworthy was sorry they could not help but explained some players would be in Manchester on Saturday for the Vauxhall Conference Congress.

The club has no control over the other players as they are not under contract when the season ends, he said.

Anyone who can help should ring Mrs Mallin on High Wycombe 0494-439075.