

Councillors are just hypocrites

I HOPE that the councillors who opposed the training pitch were not present at the FA Trophy victory celebrations on May 12, as this would further confirm the hypocrisy which runs deep within the council.

As you pointed out last Friday, there were 25,000 Wycombe supporters at Wembley, but they weren't just there for the team, they were there to support the town, which is more than the council's misguided decision has done.

Wycombe Wanderers have done a lot for the town of High Wycombe, surely it is about time that the council began to repay them or will the words of Brian Lee be proved correct. Do we really have a council which does nothing to support its football club?

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Football club has dug its own hole

YOUR editorial of July 19 concerning Adams Park was unnecessarily emotive and misguided. As one of the 25,000 people who saw our 'heroes' win the FA Trophy at Wembley I would like to put the training pitch/car park issue into perspective.

If Wycombe Wanderers Football Club genuinely have professional-league status in mind, why build a stadium with a capacity of just 6,000 (and most of them standing) at the end of a cul-de-sac?

Having attained league status the next objective must surely be to rise to the First Division. On crowds of 6,000 could a town the size of High Wycombe support these ambitions?

Is it just possible that the club pushed for the present ground and car park knowing that once the ground was in place, it would then be easier to get the extra parking places and training pitch approved?

Or had they not even thought of these extra facilities? Foul play or sheer amateurism, I wonder?

The 'decidedly amateur facilities' you refer to are the very same facilities that the Bucks Free Press has been telling its readers are the envy of many an amateur and professional club.

You assume that 'professional' facilities include a training pitch next to the ground. Why must this be so? Convenient yes, necessary no.

I know of only one football league club with a training pitch right outside of its own ground. No one, after all, is asking the players to walk to their training pitch and then play on broken glass in bare feet! So why the fuss? Why not a training pitch elsewhere in the area?

The car park issue is no different. I have yet to visit a football league club that could accommodate all the cars there for the game. People have legs and they will use them if they want to see the match.

This was proved last season when for the big games the majority of spectators had to walk the full length of Hillbottom Road and many down Dashwood Avenue and beyond.

As for only submitting to the protests of the residents this seems an odd statement for a newspaper that quite rightly in my opinion continuously badgers the local authorities for not considering the wishes of the people who vote them into power.

The people of Sands put up with quite enough on match days without another 224 cars on the move in their area. Credit where credit is due surely and don't Wycombe District Council need it.

Your heated comments about these issues appear to be based on the premise that last season's success will surely lead to further success in the near future.

But what if it doesn't? What if results deteriorate? The club would then have a ground and car park that could cope quite adequately with the level of support that it would attract.

Without a doubt it was a big mistake by Wycombe Wanderers FC to build their ground in such a position, but that, as they say, is history.

What is now needed is realism. What the club has is a nice ground in an unsuitable situation, but it is more than adequate for a successful amateur or a struggling third or fourth division club.

And struggle they probably would as Wycombe's more skilful players would be kicked as far as West Wycombe High Street by the more 'professional' teams of the lower divisions.

So please cut out the hype. Wycombe Wanderers FC dug themselves into a hole and built a football ground in it and it is churlish for Brian Lee and the Bucks Free Press to try to blame others for their own creation, adequate or not.

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