

COUNCIL planners threw out a factory extension plan because they feared it would lead to traffic chaos from Wycombe Wanderers fans parking there on match days.

The move prompted an angry reaction from Wanderers' general manager Brian Lee who criticised the councillors for blowing the traffic problem out of proportion.

Planners were so worried about the parking they overturned an officer's advice to conditionally approve the plan at Teal Furniture on Sands Industrial Estate, High Wycombe, near Wanderers' Adams Park ground.

At Wycombe District Council's Planning Applications Panel meeting last week, Cllr John Pusey said about the

site: "The parking is quite horrendous already." Cllr David Turner added: "It's not just at weekends – you get football matches in the evenings. It's got enough problems all along there at the moment."

Wycombe Wanderers' general manager Brian Lee said: "This is where the council have got their knickers in a twist – the whole thing is grossly exaggerated.

"They are using the football pitch to suit their own arguments. There will be a maximum of eight what I would call big matches a season and we would come to some arrangement – like playing when the factory workers have gone home."

A report from the chief planning and development officer to the panel said the provision for 34 car parking spaces was up to the council's standard, but councillors still voted to ignore his advice.

Teal Furniture managing director Keith White was stunned to hear the plan had been turned down.

"I don't see the sense of it. I was told there would be no problems there. It's a site that's limited for industrial use.

"We don't work Saturday afternoons so I can't see what the problem is," he said.