

Soccer parking action

DEADLOCK over parking chaos at Wycombe Wanderers may be broken as plans for a large car park take shape.

The tentative breakthrough comes as the football club waits to hear if its Adams Park stadium capacity can be increased from 6,000 to 8,000 fans. But the sticking point could be who pays for the new car park.

Council planners are looking at two sites for a car park along Lane End Road able to fit the 1,000 spaces police say are needed.

Cllr Val Letheren, chairman of the Planning Committee, said: "We need to do something more fundamental, like Wycombe 6 cinema did. They were willing to spend more money to meet the problem by leasing land from this council for a car park."

Council leader Cllr Andrew Green said he wants the club to make a significant contribution to paying for the new car park but his council and Buckinghamshire County Council would chip in.

Club chairman Ivor Beeks

complained the council had not asked him about the idea but he seemed supportive.

"Anything that the local authority can do, as I believe they have to be doing, to help with the car parking is good news."

He would not say if the club would cough up until he saw the figures.

Mr Beeks said he will pursue the appeal against the council's refusal of a training pitch and 200-space car park next to the ground. An inquiry will be heard on June 17.

Don't score own goal

THE fed-up residents of Booker and Sands will cheer the news that Wycombe Wanderers and Wycombe District Council at last seem to be on the same team and are working towards solving the club's parking problems.

But we hope that the two of them will not score an own goal with the proposed 1,000-space car park. With an average attendance of more than 3,500 and a new plan to increase the capacity of Adams Park from 6,000 to 8,000 are they sure 1,000 spaces will be enough?

We applaud the move to end the misery of residents who find their driveways and footpaths blocked on match days, but providing a car park of such limited capacity compared to that of the stadium seems short-sighted.

If Wanderers achieve their goal of promotion to the Football League this season, that average attendance could rise to more than 5,000. Does the club and the council expect only a fifth of the crowd to arrive by car?

Within a very short space of time those drives and pathways could be as blocked as they are now.

Fantasy parks near reality

I REALLY do believe Mrs Elsa Woodward is living in a dream world.

She talks about temporary car parks well away from the ground for the football supporters to use. What system are they going to use to ensure that only home and away supporters are allowed access?

Are these special buses she mentions going to be supplied free or will the users have to pay? If they have to pay, will there be a subsidy provided?

Does she expect say four supporters who are travelling to the match to travel perhaps six miles in a car to a temporary car park, pay to park the car, and then each person pay a ridiculously high price to travel on a bus to the ground? Does she understand the subject of economics?

She complains about the Minister of the Environment ignoring the wise wishes of the Wycombe District Council.

Is this not the same council who paid millions of pounds for an old chocolate factory and then decided to replace it with a concrete, sorry asphalt, car park?

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