

New Sunday market is threat to town traders

MARKET traders have condemned a decision to allow a new market when they are struggling to survive the recession.

The new 150-stall Sunday market at Wycombe Wanderers' ground Adams Park, Sands, High Wycombe, starts on September 20, after the Department of the Environment allowed an appeal.

But market traders' leader Roy Bagley said it threatens their livelihood and asked why it was allowed when Sunday trading was meant to be illegal.

"There is not enough money to go around the town as it is. It will not only put pressure on the traders but on the shops in the town," he said.

Mr Bagley, who has cut his own trading days from three to two due to the recession, added: "I thought that Sunday trading was banned anyway."

Wycombe District Council refused planning permission for the market because it was on Green Belt land. But the DoE over-ruled after an appeal.

The council has said in the past that it sends letters to stores that trade on Sundays to tell them they are breaking the current law. But it will not prosecute until the European court decides whether the Sunday ban is illegal.

New market organiser Pat Ripley said of Sunday trading: "It's a bit difficult to discuss because each area has a different view on it."

COMMENT

Will Wycombe Show survive?

WYCOMBE Show flopped yet again, competing on the Saturday against the lure of the shops and a Wycombe Wanderers home match, and on the Sunday against the rain.

So what have the organisers learnt from this sorry weekend as they talk about future Wycombe Shows?

Show chairman Roy Sherwood says: "I think the effort has shown its rewards, but not necessarily financially, and now we look forward to next year."

Surely the financial aspect is the key to whether this event should ever be staged again?

Poor attendance figures prove that there are better things to do on a September weekend than go to Wycombe Show.

It's no good blaming it on other things. The show committee should have realised that the football season would be upon us in the first week of September, and would, therefore, be up against the popularity of teams like Wycombe Wanderers.

The show committee should also have realised that organising such a large-scale event in September was always going to be more dodgy from a weather point of view than, say, June.

We hope there will be future Wycombe Shows, but on recent experiences of the event, this looks increasingly unlikely.