

BLUES' NEW BID FOR PITCH IS OPPOSED

WYCOMBE Wanderers' ongoing bid for a training pitch and a 224-space car park is again facing strong opposition from local councillors.

The football club's latest application is due to be heard tomorrow at a meeting of Wycombe District Council's planning applications panel.

It is the fifth time the club has put in an application to build a training pitch next to its Adams Park stadium, at Hillbottom Road, High Wycombe.

By MICHELLE DAVIES

Council planning officers have recommended this application be given conditional permission but local councillors look set to turn it down.

Wanderers' chairman Ivor Beeks says if the latest, modified plan is refused he will take it to the Department of Environment on appeal.

He warned: "It has taken a long time for us to get to this situation and, if the councillors

say no, unfortunately, we shall have confrontation."

Cllr Valerie Letheren objects, saying extra car parking will not solve problems experienced by local residents.

Cllr David Turner is also against the application. He believes any further development would be detrimental to the surrounding area.

Council leader Andrew Green is not on the planning panel but is against the scheme because of the number of strong views he

has received against the pitch.

The four previous applications were rejected because it was felt they would adversely affect the surrounding landscape.

The times the pitch could be used would be restricted if the application is sanctioned.

Use would not be allowed when the Blues were playing at home to minimise traffic, nor could it be used before 8am and after 10pm, unless the council gave prior permission.

Pitch row rages on

THE continuing battle between Wycombe District Council and Wycombe Wanderers over the club's application to build a training pitch is the longest-running football saga since Roy of the Rovers.

The fight has dragged on like a protracted FA Cup tie and it is a shame that the whole sorry mess cannot be resolved by a penalty shoot out.

Several councillors claim to be avid supporters of the club. If this plan is refused once more, we don't see how any of them will have the nerve to enter Adams Park again.

MUM Sharon Deighton says Wycombe Wanderers' youngest fans are being ignored in the rush for FA Cup tickets.

Her son Steven, 11, is a member of the Junior Blues. He has seen every Wycombe home game this season. But the club refuses to guarantee him a ticket for the big match against West Bromwich Albion in the FA Cup second round on December 6.

But chairman Ivor Beeks says the club is operating the fairest system possible. He said league members, season ticket holders and vice-presidents are all entitled to one ticket each. "The fairest system is you make a ticket allocation where everybody is able to buy a ticket and nobody has more than one ticket," explained Mr Beeks.

Sharon, of Queen Street, High Wycombe, said: "What is now going to happen is, all those kids who watch Wycombe Wanderers every Saturday are now going to have to queue up with the general public who last saw Wycombe play at Wembley.

"If they are going to allocate tickets, it should go across the board - from vice-presidents to junior Blues."

Sharon and work colleague Steve Spriggs, whose son is in the same boat, faxed a letter outlining their protest to Ivor Beeks last Tuesday.

Mr Beeks said that was the only protest he had received. He pointed out Sharon is a member of league and entitled to a ticket, which she could let her son use for the big game.