

THERE will be much tapping of feet and anxious looking at watches among the dignitaries at next Sunday's civic service to commemorate the imminent closure of the American Air Force base, at Daws Hill.

Mayor Ted Collins will be praying for a prompt finish because he then has to make a frenzied dash to Wembley for a pre-FA Trophy final lunch.

Ted said of the service at All Saints' Parish Church: "It's short and to the point for all those who are going to Wembley."

TALKING of football, the saga over council chairman Peter Cartwright's choice of Wycombe Wanderers as the venue for tonight's end-of-year reception trundles on.

I thought the story had been milked for all it's worth. Liberal Democrats, remember, called the choice crass because many residents in Sands hate the ground; Peter Cartwright, in return, called the Liberals pathetic; Labour, on the other hand, said the venue was wrong but only because it should have been held at the Swan.

Now Labour Cllr John Pusey has chucked in his two penny-worth of comment.

He says in a letter to the BFP: "A vociferous minority of councillors appear to take delight in attacking at the slightest opportunity Wycombe Wanderers Football Club and now seem to be suggesting the council should ostracise them and ignore the excellent facilities they provide for the town."

Petty politicking at its worst

I WAS gratified to read Charles Mann's acknowledgement of the benefits of the Wycombe Swan, and thank him for his kind comments about myself.

My husband was not quite so pleased by Chris Cowley's lack of faith in his bladder control. I think we've said enough of the beer.

The appearance of the Swan would be greatly enhanced if the fire station could be re-located and replaced with green space and trees. How about a BFP campaign for that?

I doubt my former fellow Party colleagues on WDC would refer to me as a 'lamented former politician' when I state that there is no way I should have joined their proposed boycott of the chairman's reception at Wycombe Wanderers' Adams Park.

In my opinion, this is petty politicking at its worst – and sounds like local political suicide in view of the impending elections, just four days before Wycombe goes to Wembley. I wonder how many of them will attend the reception after Wycombe win the Cup?

Jenny McGee
Fleet Close
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High Wycombe

Don't worry Peter I'll be there

FOLLOWING your report on the boycott of the Chairman of Wycombe District Council's reception at Adams Park, I would like to disassociate myself entirely from the views expressed by the Labour and Liberal Democrats groups, along with the Sands Residents' Association.

A vociferous minority of councillors appear to take delight in attacking, at the slightest opportunity, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, and now seem to be suggesting the council should ostracise them and ignore the excellent facilities they provide for the town.

In the past, Wycombe District Council can rightly be accused of failing to adequately support the club. Despite this, they have achieved magnificent success, a superb stadium and promoted High Wycombe, and indeed Buckinghamshire, positively to the whole country.

They perform a valuable community role offering coaching to schools, and youngsters during the holidays, surely these should be acknowledged by councillors. They contribute to many local events and charities both financially and in personal appearances, involving themselves in the life of the town and are a credit to the whole district.

However, it seems a minority of councillors believe anyone in Wycombe district who has planning permission allowed contrary to their views should be boycotted.

Adams Park is a superb asset to the town, but remember this was not the first choice of Wycombe Wanderers and came about after years of searching for a suitable site with little help or assistance. There are problems but these can only be solved by accepting their existence and working closely together with the club.

Those who have lived and grown up in High Wycombe recognise the important role Wycombe Wanderers Football Club has played in its 109-year history (90,000 at Wembley in 1957 to give one example), the pleasure, publicity and pride it has brought to the town.

Finally, as a born and raised Wycombe resident myself, I openly admit to being a Wycombe Wanderers supporter for many years, unlike Stephen Billingham, who in his letter to councillors, hides his true motives behind the Sands Residents' Association to attempt to score political points for his Liberal Democrat colleagues. I was pleased to accept the chairman's invitation and look forward to attending the reception.

Cllr John Pusey
Labour Party
Oakridge and Tinkers Wood
High Wycombe

Great venue for a real party

I WAS not entirely surprised to read of the boycott by the Liberal Democrats of Cllr Cartwright's party venue. It rather emphasises the shallowness of the members.

I could think of no better place to celebrate than Adams Park after the Wanderers' success and the controversy over their grounds and plans will still be with us next season.

Caleb Potts
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