

FOOTBALL FANS FACE PARKING HELL

Motorists face the prospect of having their cars towed away from outside their own homes if plans to curb parking on Wycombe Wanderers match days are given the go-ahead.

Thousands of Wycombe fans will not be allowed to park in side streets closest to the Adams Park ground, despite the Blues expecting bigger than ever crowds now they have been promoted to Division Two.

And neighbours in Sands, whom the council hoped would welcome the restrictions, are upset because the plans prohibit them from parking in the side streets too!

The building of Adams Park next to a busy residential area in the first place was a controversial decision, with an average of 5,000 fans now hoping to park their cars near the ground on match days. The car park currently takes 350.

► **BUCKS Council plans to tow away cars parking in streets near Wycombe Wanderers' football ground to please the neighbours. But the scheme has left fans and club officials furious - and the neighbours are none to pleased either. Stephen Deal reports**

Plans to extend it will add only another 300 spaces.

Wycombe Wanderers' marketing manager Mark Austin said yesterday that if the proposals are approved, it could affect the club's long-term plans to build a new £2m stand at the ground. He said he wished the club had been consulted about the plans.

Council scheme leaves 350 spaces for 5,000 fans

"We now have only two weeks to object in writing," he said, adding that he wanted as many people as possible to send letters to the council.

Under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Bucks Council proposes to prohibit parking between noon and 6pm on Saturday match days, and 4pm and 10pm on evening match days, in sections of Arundel Road, Bookerhill Road, Chapel Lane, Hillbottom Road, Hylton Road, Lane End Road, Pinewood Road, Progress Road, Stanley Road and Toweridge Lane.

Mark said: "The crazy thing is people have been writing to the council complaining because they can't park their cars outside their own houses on match days.

"The very people this was designed to help, it has upset. Not only that, but the council will also upset a fourth group of people - other than us, our fans and the people of Sands - and that is the people who will

now have fans parking outside their homes further away from the ground."

"Another problem would be away fans who would be unlikely to park a far distance from the ground, and would be unaware that their cars could be towed away."

One Sands resident said: "There are a lot of people upset about it.

"Many don't like the football ground anyway, this will turn them even more against it."

A spokesman for the council said: "We are doing our best to sort out the problem. The residents were not happy with what was happening every time there was a game at Adams Park. After all, they do have a Second Division ground right next to people's homes.

"I am surprised to hear the club say we didn't consult them because we have had a number of meetings with them."

The closing date for objections is Friday, July 8, after which the council will take its final decision.

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