

SANDS

**Martin
Grey**

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A COUNCIL source says it is 'highly likely' the Planning Applications Panel at next Monday's meeting will consider Wycombe Wanderers FC's bid to build its proposed 5,000 capacity south stand at the panel's meeting on August 30.

Karen Isaacs, the secretary of the Sands Residents' Association, points out that Adams Park is 'wholly sited in the Green Belt and Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.' The club responds that the Department of Environment Inspector gave 'irrevocable' permission for a stadium of up to 10,000 capacity.

Karen contends that the 'increased capacity will exacerbate parking, traffic and noise problems.' The club replies that 'there will be no increase in total (ground) capacity' so it is expecting no significant change in noise levels and the same goes for parking.

Karen also expressed concern about a potential 'new link road'.

The club responds there is no decision on a link road yet, and WWFC 'doesn't need a link road at the moment.'

Last year the club's average gate was 5,846.

Stephen Billingham, formerly chairman of the Sands Residents' Association and now a Liberal Democrat Wycombe District Councillor, says that 'the football club should not be wasting any more money at the Hillbottom Road site and should be actively looking for a new site in Wycombe suitable for a premiership club.'

THERE will be a surgery for the two Liberal Democrat councillors, Stephen Billingham and Claire Mill, on Saturday September 2 from 11-midday at the village hall open to all who wish to discuss local issues.

Folly of short-term thinking

THE current debacle concerning the development of Wycombe Wanderers' football stadium at Adams Park is a timely reminder to the authorities of the dangers in short-term thinking.

Just after the last war, talks of regeneration began concerning housing and public utilities expansion, including the Wycombe General Hospital site.

A very large site in Hazlemere, Leabettors Park, was mooted as ideal for both hospital and other public utilities. Housing took priority and the hospital was redeveloped on the present site and the college in the town centre.

When Loakes Park was discussed regarding hospital expansion etc, many of us felt this would be an ideal opportunity to break from traditional 'in town' development with all its implications for

residents and congestion. The local authority decision was to site the new ground in a cul de sac at Sands. It has been a bone of contention ever since.

No major development now should ever be put in such a difficult position. The situation will not go away and Wanderers is the town's flagship. If the council persist in opposing expansion of Adams Park it will split the local community apart.

Thousands have already signed petitions and more are being organised.

It should be realised that Wanderers is of vital economic importance and to undermine the newly found confidence in the town's future would be an act of gross folly.

**Alan Page, Twin Oaks
Curzon Ave, High Wycombe**

Stand up for our football club

THE last few years has seen Wycombe Wanderers achieve much for the town of High Wycombe. In a short space of time they have gone from playing minor league football to almost reaching the First Division.

We may be stating the obvious, but the aim of most football clubs is to be the best in their division. If last year's form is anything to go by, the club has a serious chance of coming top this season and earning promotion. When Wycombe District Council first gave the club planning permission for the site at Sands, it must have realised that they would need to expand if successful.

What the football club is trying to do is plan for further growth and the real possibility of playing football in the higher divisions. Improving their seating arrangements will enable them to do this, as the FA would then let them regularly host First Division matches. The seating arrangements left as they are would permanently limit the team to the lower divisions.

The most worrying aspect of the proposed plans is the height of the new stand. For a club the size of the Wanderers, this will always be a problem. In the context of the Sands Industrial Estate, will this really matter? Also, where else could you put such a large club as this in

Wycombe without placing it in the Green Belt or adjacent to housing?

The fact is that Wycombe Wanderers Football Club is a success. It generates large numbers of visitors to the area and puts Wycombe firmly on the map. We believe that on August 30, the Planning Applications Panel should decide that if this club is to have a real future, it must allow this application to go ahead. If it doesn't, the council may be wasting a great opportunity for the area.

**Cllrs Alexander Stone
and Alan Mountford
Lane End and Piddington**

Teams were level on fouls

Open letter from Wycombe Wanderers' manager Alan Smith in reply to a letter published last week

I HAVE received the copy of your letter sent to the Bucks Free Press which I was disappointed to read. I can only tell you that on checking the video tape the same number of fouls were given to each team and there was no attempt on our part, or instructions given, to intimidate Crewe Alexandra. I will be taking my own action with regard to the player being sent off.

We have given an undertaking to play open attack football and I am sorry that you have felt it necessary to write on this particular matter.

In the meantime, I wish Crewe Alexandra all success for the season.

**Alan Smith
Manager
Wycombe Wanderers
Football Club**