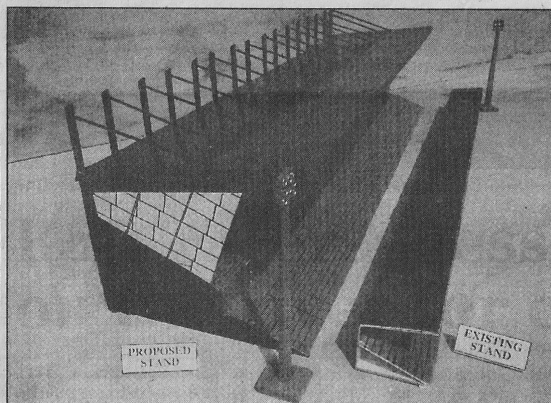




Standing committee: Wycombe district councillors on a site visit to Adams Park on Wednesday before voting next week on Blues' upgrading scheme

Rogue stand replica sparks planning storm



The unauthorised model of the proposed new stand

AN UNAUTHORISED model of Wycombe Wanderers' proposed new football stand has prompted an official letter of complaint against Liberal Democrat Stephen Billingham.

The Wycombe district councillor (Lib Dem, West Wycombe and Sands) displayed the model two weeks ago for members of the planning applications panel as they considered Blues' latest bid to upgrade Adams Park.

Panel members visited the football ground on Wednesday to help them decide whether to give the go-ahead for the new south stand. A decision will be made on Wednesday.

Cllr Billingham is spearheading the attack against the

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scheme. But the model, built for show at a Sands Residents Association AGM by a member of that group, was not checked for accuracy or authorised by the council.

Councillor Jean Teesdale (Con, Cressex & Frogmoor) said it could have perverted the committee's judgement in granting or refusing Blues' planning permission. She added: "It was a good thing that there was no vote taken that night."

The Tory group has lodged an official complaint with the council chief executive Richard

Cummins. Cllr Teesdale added: "I fully believed that the model was from the applicant. I was quite staggered to find out it was not."

The incident prompted Blues' chairman Ivor Becks to seek legal advice.

Cllr Billingham said he did not know a letter of complaint had been submitted. He denied any attempt to sabotage normal planning procedure.

He added: "I took it along in good faith, thinking it would help the councillors. Had anyone said 'You can't have it here' then I would have taken the thing away."

Mr Cummins reminded members of the procedure for using models of proposed developments at planning meetings.