

Blues ponder pitch gamble

Wanderers' new pitch plan would keep door ajar for Wasps' arrival in Autumn

WANDERERS are considering taking a £500,000 gamble on a new pitch for Wasps – even though they still have to win council backing for the groundshare.

Blues have only got until the middle of the month to order the new hard-wearing Desso surface if they want it in time for the new football and rugby season in the autumn.

And they are considering going ahead and getting it now, despite losing round one of their battle to host Wasps rugby matches in the council chamber last week.

The project, which will also include undersoil heating, will cost around £500,000.

Wanderers are hoping Wasps will help finance the project, but have yet to hear back from

DAVE PETERS

GROUNDSHARE

the London club, who are desperate to move into Adams Park.

Wasps had agreed to stump up most of the cash for the project – but that was before Wycombe District Council blocked the groundshare plans, ruling that playing rugby is an improper use of Adams Park under its current planning regulations.

Wanderers and Wasps won't give up though. They hired in legal experts this week and, with the benefit of that help, will jointly re-submit their application to the council next week and are confident it will get through this time.

The application is expected to take around eight weeks

before it is decided and by going ahead with the new Desso pitch now, it keeps Wanderers' slim hopes alive of having rugby there next season.

Blues team boss Lawrie Sanchez won't entertain having the rugby club on his pitch unless it is changed to the new hard-wearing surface.

Adams Park chief executive Simon Monkman said: "Even if we don't get the commitment back from Wasps, we're looking at the viability of raising the money ourselves.

"If we get the pitch done this year and we don't get rugby next season, it gives the surface a year to bed in for when Wasps do arrive."

The football club is convinced it is not taking a risk. They are certain it is a question of when and not if Wasps move in.



Decision time: Chief executive Simon Monkman is looking at the viability of going ahead with plans for a new pitch