

Residents cry foul at £25 parking permits

FAMILIES living near Causeway Stadium – the Wycombe Wanderers and Wasps ground – are annoyed they might be forced to pay £25 a year for the right to park outside their homes on match days.

Football fans infuriate residents by parking outside their homes. As part of the Wanderers' travel plan, Buckinghamshire County Council was asked to carry out a review of parking.

The council came up with proposals for a residents' parking zone, applying only on match days.

Residents made their feelings known at a meeting

MARGARET SMITH
POLITICAL EDITOR

with police, the clubs and district and county councils at the stadium, chaired by Tony Fooks of the High Wycombe Society.

Not only do residents object to paying but they do not believe the police will enforce the restrictions.

Mike Owen Evans asked police to commit themselves to enforcing the regulations, but Sergeant Gordon Riley, of Wycombe police, replied: "I can't give a 100 per cent guarantee that we shall be in the area on every match day.

"Poor parking is not a priority for the police, but we

will do it whenever possible. We police a few but not all matches."

There is a possibility that a special traffic warden could be employed. Sgt Riley said there could be a pot of money which could be used and there will be a meeting about it with Wycombe District Council in August.

The residents were told £25 was the same price people living in existing residents' parking zones in the town had to pay.

But they replied there were only about 50 match days a year.

Many people lived in the area before Wycombe Wanderers built their ground and so would prefer the club not

to be there at all. And they say if anyone should have to meet the costs it should not be the residents.

One woman said she had objected to the club moving in, but no one took any notice. She said: "Now I am being asked to pay £25 to park outside my own home."

Some people objected to the parking zone saying they were not affected by the parking problems but would still have to pay £25.

Both Wanderers and Wasps have arranged buses to ferry fans to the ground on match days, but even here trouble looms. Arriva bus company is pulling out of the service and Motts

Coaches may do so too.

Keith Allen, Wanderers club secretary, said Arriva could not afford to run the service. He fears that if fares go up fans will not use them.

Mike Jones, the county council's senior area technician for traffic management, told the meeting that it was up to them what was done.

He said afterwards: "If people come back and say they don't want it, we could leave things as they are."

Administering the scheme will cost £50 per permit, not the £25 people will have to pay.

Mr Jones said the money had to come from somewhere. "We don't have it," he added.