

'Justify eye-watering £750,000'

■ Councillor questions cash commitment in 'tough times'

By Oliver Evans

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breakdown of how it will be spent?"

Cllr Clarke said "people do want to see a community stadium" and there "always were two budgets allocated for the scheme".

These were up to £500,000 for a procedure needed to change the council's planning rules – known as the core strategy – and up to £250,000 to study options.

Wycombe Sports Development Limited, which represents Wycombe Wanderers and London Wasps, will put in another £250,000.

Cllr Clarke, *pictured right*, said: "The project is very large

scale, as you are well aware, and the evaluation consultation which is required to justify a core strategy is extensive.

"The costs incurred are not insubstantial."

She reprimanded Cllr Guy for saying the site would 'possibly' be at Wycombe Airfield.

She said: "There are several sites that are being looked at and Booker is one of them."

She said of Cllr Guy naming the site: "Please do not keep doing it."

Cllr Guy said: "Over the last 15 months this council cut a number of community projects that are considered worthwhile because of the difficult financial times that we find ourselves in."

He said he had been approached by residents who last year failed to get the council to back High Wycombe as a Fairtrade town.

This was needed to give the town the status from



the Fairtrade movement, which urges people to buy products which they say give third-world producers a fair deal.

It would have cost £250 and Cllr Guy said the residents "want me to explain to them how it is we can find large sums of money when we can't find small sums of money for worthwhile things".

Yet Cllr Clarke said: "I don't think Fairtrade supports the British farmers and I think we should out of courtesy support our farmers."

"There are a group of people who keep us fed and helping with Fairtrade was of no help to us."

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A COUNCIL chief was urged to 'justify' spending up to an 'eye-watering' £750,000 on plans to move Adams Park.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Steve Guy, *pictured below*, spoke after Wycombe District Council announced its total commitment was £500,000 more than previously announced.

He told leader Councillor Lesley Clarke at Monday's full council meeting: "As times are very tough financially for

all of us, this seems to residents to be an eye-watering amount of money.

"Could the leader please justify why so much money is needed at this stage and give us a

