

STADIUM SURVEY

Responses go past the 1,200 mark, and still counting...

RESPONSES to the **BFP**'s independent survey on the controversial plan for a community stadium for Wycombe continue to flood in – with the total received now topping 1,200.

They have been returned to the **BFP** offices both in online and printed form.

Parties from all sides of the stadium debate – including WSDL, GASP (Groups Against the Stadium Proposals) and Wycombe District Council – were consulted in an effort to create an independent survey.

The survey is not intended to replace the council's own public consultation, which concluded with Wycombe Air Park being named as the site with the "best potential" for the project.

BFP editor Steve Cohen said: "The way we phrased the questions in the survey was criticised on both sides of the debate to start with. However, the public have responded extremely enthusiastically, as the number of responses shows.

"We haven't analysed the results yet and the validation process will be harder than we thought because the reaction has been so good.

"But we will do our very best to make this work and we hope to recruit a market research company to examine the findings of the survey. We aim to be as transparent as possible, without giving away personal data that is included in the form. Our job is to provide the information we obtain in as balanced a way as possible."

Readers have another chance to complete a survey in today's edition of the **BFP Midweek**.

If you do not supply your full details, or your details cannot be verified, your votes will not be included in the results of the survey.

The **BFP** is limiting the survey to one vote per person. The closing date for entries is Friday, February 4.

Send completed forms to the **BFP Stadium Survey**, Loudwater Mill, Station Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP10 9TY.

Alternatively complete the form online at bucksfreepress.co.uk



PLEASE fill out the following details about yourself. Your details will not be included in any story but will be used purely by the Bucks Free Press Midweek to validate your form. The Bucks Free Press Midweek will validate every response. Any response that cannot be validated will not be included in the results. **Closing date for responses is Friday, February 4.**

Name: _____ Full Address: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____ Mobile: _____

■ Are you a fan of: Wycombe Wanderers ☐ London Wasps ☐ Neither ☐

■ Do you use any of the district's current sporting facilities? YES ☐ NO ☐
Reasons/Comments... (If yes, which? If no, why not?)

1. In principle, do you back the idea of a new Community Stadium in the Wycombe district? YES ☐ NO ☐
Reasons/Comments...

2. In principle, do you back plans for a Sports Village and an 'enabling development', such as a housing development or hotel, within the district? YES ☐ NO ☐ Reasons...

3. If Yes to Q2, what facilities would you like to see as part of a 'Sports Village'? Suggestions/Comments...

4. Do you believe Wycombe Air Park is the location with the "best potential" for a stadium? YES ☐ NO ☐
If no, where do you think any complex should be built...?

5. Do you think the project is a special case and justifies the development of Green Belt land? YES ☐ NO ☐
Reasons/Comments...

6. Besides the money already spent on feasibility studies and the public consultation, do you believe WDC should have any further financial investment into the stadium project? YES ☐ NO ☐ Reasons/Comments...

7. If you answered No to any of the above questions, would you back the proposals if a business case was made and proven that the council would make money from their initial investment, and the clubs would benefit from the project?
YES ☐ NO ☐ Reasons...

8. Were you satisfied with the information provided by the council and the clubs prior to, and during the public consultation process? YES ☐ NO ☐ Reasons/Comments...

■ Other comments: (If you have any further suggestions, please add them on a separate sheet)

Send this to Bucks Free Press, Loudwater Mill, Station Road, Loudwater, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP10 9TY. Also see bucksfreepress.co.uk

Midweek

COMMENT

Fantastic response vindicates survey

WHEN the *Bucks Free Press* launched its stadium survey on January 21, a few eyebrows were raised.

We were asked why we were doing it when Wycombe District Council had already carried out its own extensive consultation, which garnered more than 8,000 responses.

Our decision was vindicated after just a day, however, as survey forms poured in thick and fast.

Now with just three days left to the closing date, we have already received 1,200 completed forms. These have yet to be analysed and validated, so it's impossible yet to know the significance and indeed whether there have been attempts to submit multiple entries.

We will, of course, endeavour to answer these questions in the fullness of time.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the response has been spectacular in terms of local newspaper feedback. The council may well argue its consultation outweighs our survey eight to one, but the response we have received has surpassed all of our expectations. There's never been anything like this level of reader interaction that we can remember.

All the way along, we have stressed this is not a replacement for the official consultation – even though some critics claimed the council's study was flawed because it did not give respondents an obvious chance to reject the principle of a stadium.

Instead, our survey asks a different set of questions, which we hope will provide important information in this vital local debate.

And whether it is a thumbs-up or thumbs down for the stadium, we are delighted we can play our part on behalf of our readers.