

Let us kick-start the stadium dream again

WHAT on earth is the matter with you people that live in the High Wycombe area?

You had a golden opportunity for having one of the biggest and best sporting villages in the country on your doorstep.

You had the opportunity to help with the unemployment and the housing problem in the area.

You had a chance of having a more successful football club but a minority of locals and a handful of Wycombe district councillors have tried to destroy this and have shown no interest in going forward.

They don't like their lives inconvenienced and if they had their way we'd still be living in caves.

The village would have consisted of affordable housing, world-class sporting and leisure facilities, business facilities, workshop and retail space, summer camps, hotel and conference facilities, public spaces for people to relax, adult education resources and new jobs for the young.

There would have been four roads going in and out of the

village, one of these roads going direct to the motorway, hence no traffic problems.

Was this not enough? What more do you want? I know for a fact that the majority of people that live in the Wycombe area support this project but you won't stand up and be counted.

My question to you is how badly do you want this?

If you miss this chance you won't get another one. It will be gone forever.

Please don't let that happen.

My question to the supporters of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club is what sort of club do you want?

Do you want a club that has 3,000 supporters and plays non-league football and whose biggest game will be the first round of the FA Cup against a league side?

Or do you want a club that has a chance and I say a chance of playing in the championship in a 17,000 stadium consisting of 6,000 Wycombe supporters and the 5,000 that the big clubs in that division will bring with them.

Another question. What has Steve Hayes done wrong?

He's pumped his own money into the club and he's never going to get it back.

It's his money that has paid

for the four on-loan players that have changed our fortunes around and given us a chance of avoiding relegation. If he wanted to bankrupt the club he could do it today but he's still pumping money in. I wouldn't blame him if he sold the club, the way he's been treated.

So my request to everyone who lives in the Wycombe area, whether you're interested in football or not, is to please, please send an email (news@bucksfreepress.co.uk), a letter, a carrier pigeon to the Bucks Free Press supporting this venture. If we get enough people doing this we can kick-start it again and give the High Wycombe area a town to be proud of, for us, our children, our children's children and for generations to come.

Look forward to hearing from you all.

Eric Buckle, Stokenchurch

Council demonstrates antipathy to horses

RE: Last week's article which told how an unauthorised stable block at Woodrow Farm, Amersham, could face

demolition. Members of Chiltern District Council's planning committee have now turned down owner Tony Williams' new plans to retain the stables which is deemed inappropriate for the green belt.

MY sympathy is with the Williams family. Once again Chiltern District Council have demonstrated antipathy towards anything to do with horses.

What could be more appropriate than stables for horses in the countryside and therefore the encouragement of horse riding.

Myself and a near neighbour at Penn Bottom were both refused permission for four and two extra stables respectively on existing livery yards. The reason – the all encompassing dictat of inappropriate development.

Chiltern District Council does not serve the interests of the people. Will they apply the same zeal to HS2? Not a chance, as bullies do not like to take on anyone bigger than themselves.

Mr J. M. Lye, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere

For an archive of letters, go to the Your Say section at bucksfreepress.co.uk

Don't let lovely Booker be ruined by white elephant

IT'S only been a few months since the Booker stadium proposal was kicked into touch but according to an article on the Bucks Free Press website a few days ago conceptual plans are now being formulated to build a hotel at the aerodrome.

This comes on top of the approval of a plan to build a waste transfer station at the nearby High Heavens site.

While Wycombe town may be a planning jumble with densely packed buildings, the area around the aerodrome has, until now, escaped the ravages of over-development. In my opinion it

would be a terrible shame to see Booker succumb and turn into an extension of the urban sprawl of the town.

Just why do we need a hotel at the aerodrome anyway. Are there many people desperately trying to find accommodation in that part of town? The location may be in the green belt and an area of outstanding natural beauty but the steady stream of dustcarts carrying

waste from the proposed transfer station at Booker is hardly likely to conjure up the ideal setting for guests looking for a relaxing break.

It only takes one development and the floodgates open, within a few years what was once a lovely rural setting becomes an urban jungle.

Just look at a map of Wycombe in the late 1800s and see how Sands, Downley and Booker were

separated from Wycombe by green fields. The development that has taken place in the intervening years has torn down the boundaries and consumed areas like Sands.

Places that have escaped the claws of the developers such as Booker are few and far between and should be protected to make sure they stay that way.

Unless a stand is made now, in a hundred years time I fear Lane End will also become just another sub-district of Wycombe.

The breakdown of planning is bad enough in the town with houses being pulled down and replaced with flats and front gardens being converted into off-street parking.

The last thing we need is a white elephant hotel in lovely rural Booker.

These columns are exclusive to this print edition, but you can read Ivor's hugely-popular blogs on the Your Say section at: bucksfreepress.co.uk

