

Is the existing planning system fit for purpose ?

The Council owes a Common Law duty of care to its residents and this includes taking an overview of the proposal as it is now and how it may develop in future. However, no common sense overall due diligence appears to have been conducted on the CIC's proposal, projections or on the proposed operators. Instead, it has been approached as a box ticking exercise by the various Council departments. Thus, we have the Council's planners saying that they can only look at the proposal before them whilst cynically advising a "salami-slicing" approach to future applications for expansion.

The Planning system allows for a privatisation of a public land without safeguards :

- The proposed new HRC scheme is really a privatisation without safeguards.
 - a. It sloughs off the council's regulatory responsibility and – worse still – removes the only financially sound body able to pick up the pieces should the scheme come to grief.
 - b. The old permission was "personal" to the Bucks County Council and engaged the council's governance and financial responsibility. The new permission, if granted, will attach to the land, which the CIC will lease from the Council. The CIC will then appoint a contractor to operate the HRC on a commercial basis.
 - c. This removes the council's responsibility for the HRC's operation as well as its authority to take corrective action other than as set out in the lease. The CIC is thus in the place of a regulator.
 - d. The CIC, which is utterly opaque, is a company with minimal resources and no staff. It is controlled by two councillors with no real business experience who have nominated a 'preferred operator' with no waste experience and a scandalous track record.