

Composition of the CIC & actual or perceived breaches of the code of conduct by the two cllrs shareholders of the CIC.

Link to Companies House for the CIC:

The CIC is listed here: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/12142105> which shows all the Directors.

Below are the comments of a prominent local government official with whom the matter has been discussed:

“I understand that all 3 Directors of the CIC are also either Councillors of the DC, 2 are certainly Councillors of the new Bucks Council, and the 3rd is a Parish Councillor for Stokenchurch. That alone is a massive conflict of interest. And to grant such a large sum of money to a group that has no financial history is something we over here would never even think about, even in a crisis.”

Two of the councillors also did not register their interests in the CIC on the register of pecuniary interests at the proper time. They were also approached by the planning department as consultees in their own planning consultation. Instead of declaring an interest in the matter and declining to comment, they provided consultee responses in support of the planning application in their capacities as councillors. One of them, Mr Etholen, wrote in support the scheme as ward councillor. Please see below: Appendix A of Heather Smith’s planning officer’s report. Mr Bendyshe similarly provided support as a councillor for the main planning application but mysteriously, when the conflict was pointed out to the planning department, his comment was deleted from the public file.

Also note that in the officer’s report from Wycombe, (Heather Smith) it is stated (see Appendix A below) that “*Councillor Carl Etholen: has submitted a written response to a local objector stating his support for the scheme*”. **Where is that written response?** It has been used by the officer as “material” support for the application from the local ward member. It is not on the planning portal. **The fact that Cllr Etholen is part of the application is not only highly irregular, being a Director of the CIC but, In some’s view, should be brought to the attention of the Monitoring Officer at Bucks CC** via monitoringofficer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. They have a statutory duty to pass any complaints to an independent person for assessment as to whether there has been a contravention of Councillor’s standards.

A formal complaint by a resident has been filed.

20/05173/CONCC

APPENDIX A

Consultations and Notification Responses

Ward Councillor Preliminary Comments

Councillor Carl Etholen: has submitted a written response to a local objector stating his support for the scheme.