

COUNCIL – 19 APRIL 2012

INFORMATION PACK

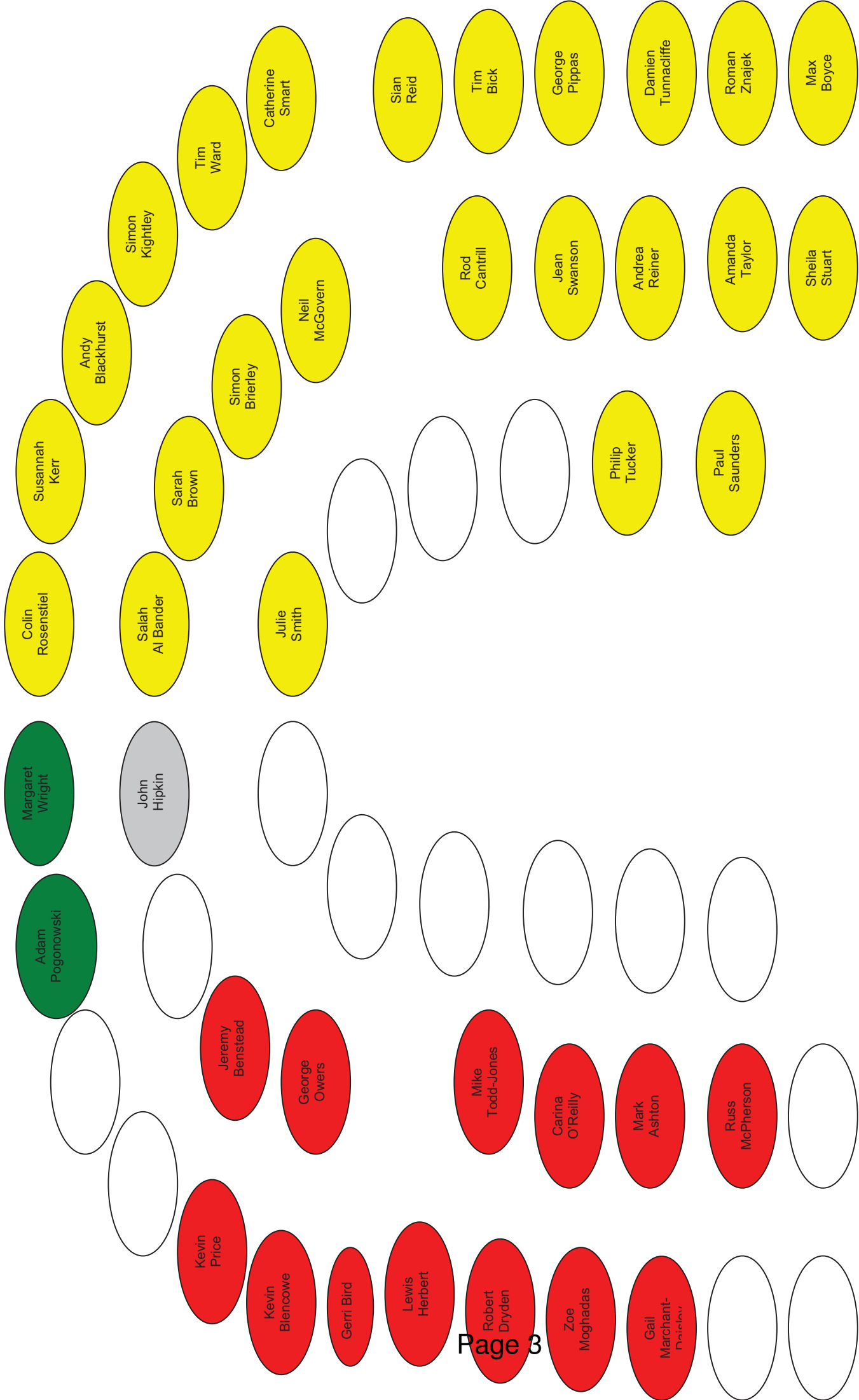
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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Council Information Pack

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- The Chief Executive
- Head of Legal Services, Simon Pugh
- The Mayor Ian Nimmo-Smith
- The Deputy Mayor Caroline Hart
- The Mayor's Chaplain

Oral Questions for Council

1. Councillor Dryden to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

Is the council's emergency out of hours telephone number 457457, still the correct number to call when residents need to contact the council for that reason?

2. Councillor Herbert to the Leader of the Council

What further effort is planned to recover the missing folk festival ticket money?

3. Councillor Brierley to the Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services

The litter in the area between CRC and Campkin Way Tescos has been a persistent problem. I know a significant number of Kings Hedges residents are interested in what actions are being taken to reduce and mitigate the problem?"

4. Councillor Reiner to the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health

Could you please report back to the Council on the result of your discussions with the Post Office on the shortcomings of its new office on St. Andrew's Street?

5. Councillor Price to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

How effective has the Cam-Conservators implementation from April 1st of only granting punt licences to businesses operating from the 6 identified punt stations been, and, subsequently, what has been the effect on the numbers and behaviour of punt touts operating in the city centre?

6. Councillor Owers to the Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services

In light of the council's catastrophically poor record at taking enforcement action against irresponsible dog owners for dog-fouling, are there plans to co-operate with PCSOs and/or police officers to bolster enforcement efforts against dog-fouling?

7. Councillor Pogonowski to the Leader of the Council

The Citizens Survey results show increasing dissatisfaction with the Lib Dem-led Cambridge City Council. Particularly, results of how well the Council keeps residents informed of how it spends money, committee meetings and what they are for, and how residents can get involved scored high levels of dissatisfaction. What will the Leader and her group do to remedy this situation?

8. Councillor Pogonowski to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

What powers does the city council have to prevent punt-operating companies having too great a market share in Cambridge?

9. Councillor Reiner to the Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services

Could the Executive Councillor please report to Council on the success of the Cam Cleanup, which happened over the weekend?

10. Councillor Herbert to the Leader of the Council

Will she support the merging of the Cambridge local plan to 2030 into a single joint plan with South Cambridgeshire?

Amendment to Motion A – proposed by Councillor Smart

Delete all and replace with:

This Council notes that:

- The Planned Maintenance contract started in July 2011 and at the end of February £2.5 million of the scheduled £5.3 million was due for payment
- Apollo have increased the team on site, mobilized their supply chain and given assurances that the rest of the first year's work will be speeded up and will be completed by July 2012
- Orders have also been placed with Kier Services, the secondary contractor, including the important fire safety work in the Ekin Road flats.

The Council further notes that:

- the level of satisfaction by tenants is 95%
- the quality of work inspections records a level of 95.4%
- that a double inspection regime operates for electrical work in view of the concerns expressed during the previous contract.

The Council further notes that:

- an Internal Audit on the contract and how it was managed, was completed in November 2011 and gave a “significant” level of assurance.
- Council urges any tenant who is unhappy about work that is being done, to let the Council know, either directly or through their councillor or tenant representative so that steps can be taken to improve things.
- Council also requests that a full report covering quality standards, tenant satisfaction, costings and the amount of work completed come to the Housing Management Board after the completion of the first year of the contract.

Amendment to Motion B – proposed by Councillor Smart

Delete all and replace with:

The Council recognises the vital contribution that shared rented housing makes in providing homes for students, professionals, migrant workers and many people on low incomes. It acknowledges that housing is expensive in Cambridge and that this is the only way many people can afford to live in the city.

Council therefore rejects the idea of limiting the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in the city or part of the city. If restrictions are put in place, rents would rise and people would quickly be priced out of the city. Making it difficult for people to access shared housing in the city, could have a disastrous effect on the economy of the area.

Council notes the desire of some to “extend the current HMO definition to include all properties with 3 or more people in two or more unrelated households, regardless of the building layout” but also notes that the conditions required in the legislation are not present in Cambridge to extend the licensing system in this way and agrees that it should be kept under review. However, Council also recognises that the implementation of the licensing of smaller properties can be deeply intrusive and lead to complex enquiries about details of people's relationships and domestic arrangements which are no business of the council. Any extension of the licensing system would need to be framed to avoid this.

The Council also notes that, while the majority of landlords are responsible and manage their houses in a satisfactory way, a minority are not, causing severe problems both to their tenants and to the neighbours. It further notes that while the majority of residents are responsible people, some are not and are inconsiderate, irresponsible and cause considerable problems to their neighbours

The Council therefore endorses the actions of the Environmental Health Officers in responding to complaints and working towards changing the behaviour of the irresponsible minority in all types of tenure whether landlords, tenants or homeowners. It notes that advice, warnings, enforcement letters, injunctions, confiscations and full prosecution are all used to this end.

However, Council requests that an annual report is brought to Community Services Scrutiny Committee detailing the number and type of complaints received by the Environmental Health Department and how they have been dealt with, including the number of prosecutions.

Amendment to Motion B – proposed by Councillor Pogonowski

Delete all after ‘migrant worker’ and replace with:

The council further recognises that the massive shortage of secure and affordable tenancies in the city is forcing many to live in inappropriate accommodation or in many cases housing poverty.

In order to help the Council implement housing and planning policy effectively, the Council requests the Executive Councillor for Housing conduct a comprehensive survey into city residents living in private rented accommodation, which looks at rents, agents fees, quality and safety, housing security and the location of housing.

The Council requests that the results from this survey go to Community Services Scrutiny Committee and the Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee to look at the findings and to help inform debate around the Local Plan Review with regards to HMOs.

Amendment to Motion C – proposed by Councillor Reid

The Council extends its wholehearted congratulations to Marshall of Cambridge for its outstanding contribution to the city, and most recently for persuading the European Office of ExecuJet to relocate from Switzerland to Cambridge, at a time when other firms are leaving the UK.

Delete rest and replace with

The Council is committed to supporting the continued success of employers in the Cambridge area and notes and welcomes Marshall's longstanding commitment to retaining its operating bases here, thus helping to protect over 2000 direct jobs plus an estimated 4000 further local jobs that currently service this great Cambridge company. It further welcomes Marshall's apprenticeship programme and the company's strong contribution both to the community and to the wider interests of the Cambridge economy.

The Council is committed to supporting growth in the Cambridge economy, and notes that the combined South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge jobs have grown from 157,200 in 2000 to 180,300 in 2011 and that those in Cambridge itself have grown from 91,600 to 97,400 in the same period.

The Council further recognises the Centre for Cities report showing how well Cambridge has fared in the downturn compared to 64 other UK cities and how well it is placed for economic growth.

The Council further welcomes measures to improve employment opportunities in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, particularly for young people. These include our partnership's new Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire grant fund, the Council's Economic Inclusion grants and Cambridge Regional College's '100 Apprentice' campaign.

Amendment to Motion D – proposed by Councillor Blencowe

Add an additional bullet point that reads as follows between original bullet point 3 and 4

- Notes that the Liberal Democrats running the City Council have had 12 years in which to investigate opening post office branches in locations where Cambridge residents access council services and only now

Add new bullet point at the end

- Does not welcome the fact that the coalition government is allowing the privatisation of Royal Mail.

Council 19 April 2012 Written Questions

1. Councillor McPherson to the Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services

The growing habit of dropping and leaving litter is a major problem, especially in public spaces such as play parks and green spaces particularly in the warmer months. Complaints are on the increase and at least twice the litter left over the weekend was so bad on Cambridge City public spaces last summer that it made headlines in the Cambridge News.

I would like to see greater support for the environmental team who are charged with tackling this problem, which is a blight on our open spaces. Can the executive Councillor confirm that the work undertaken by our environmental team including the small team of enforcement officers would be supported by temporary seasonal enforcement and/or educational officers who could join the existing team in their work with Schools and Colleges in providing education on this topic? This coupled with the introduction of fixed penalty notices for under 18 years olds (as at this time there is very little that can be done in Cambridge if an offender is under 18), would significantly reduce this problem especially at known hot spots. The aim of this would not be to 'criminalise' young people for the offence of littering but to assist the enforcement officers in focusing the attention of ALL age groups on this growing and very costly problem.

Response:

Littering is a major issue for us on our streets and open spaces and I fully support the work that we undertake in education and enforcement as well as cleaning up this problem.

We follow our Enforcement Policy and balance education with enforcement.

The Ranger Service, Enforcement Team and Service Delivery Team all undertake educational visits which include Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, CRC, Sixth Form and other Colleges and Freshers Fair. We undertake national campaigns with the Keep Britain Tidy organisation and benefit from their advertising and campaigning.

We have increased resources within both the Ranger Service and the Enforcement Team and now have officers specifically engaged to cover weekends and bank holidays. We will be evaluating the impact of these extra resources after the summer and if need be will make any appropriate bid for following years.

In addition we will be appointing a Street Champion to work with our communities and educate and encourage residents of all ages, community groups and neighbourhoods to tidy up their area.

The investment we are making through the capital funding of a four year programme for the installation of recycling and litter bins across our streets and open spaces will enable our residents and visitors alike to take a more responsible attitude to disposing of 'waste on the go'.

With regard to the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices to under 18 years olds. The issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice is an alternative to prosecution. Littering is a criminal offence and therefore if the fine remained unpaid the offender would 'be criminalised'. We have followed advice from legal services and preferences from the Youth Court not to issue FPN's for littering against juveniles.

Schools and colleges can help us to get the anti littering message across by supporting our endeavours and taking a firm line with their students who litter. We will continue to balance our resources between education, enforcement and disposal provision and clean up.

2. Councillor Price to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

What measures have been put in place to ensure the standard of work undertaken by the planned housing maintenance contractor meets the council's highest standards, what examples are there and is the Council happy with the levels of sub-contracting? Can he provide a list of the main subcontractors and their trades? And have the contractor and contractors delivered on time, to quality, and assisted catch up on time lost in 2011?

Response:

1. Measures taken to ensure the standard of work undertaken by the planned maintenance contractor meets the Council's highest standard

- At end February 2012 the level of Customer satisfaction was 95%. The target for customer satisfaction in year one is 90%.
- Quality of work is currently 95.4%, based on site inspections carried out by Estates and Facilities surveyors the target being 90%.
- Volunteer resident site inspectors have inspected a number of properties to check welfare facilities, health and safety and work quality.
- Whilst the standard of service delivery is demonstrably high, it is inevitable that there may be some issues or complaints when carrying out work of this nature. As far as we are aware issues have been swiftly dealt with.
- Complaint records have not given rise to a material level of concern. However if Members have instances then officers will be happy to deal with them.

2. Sub-contracting

The Council has no concerns regarding the level of sub-contracting.

Please see below a list of sub-contractors and their trades.

Apollo

Contract Flooring Services	Vinyl flooring
ASB Environmental	Asbestos Removal
Kershaw Ltd	Asbestos Removal
G & S Hutchinson	General Builders / Windows
Bellcorp	Bathrooms
N&S	Bathrooms
GC Electrical	Electrical
TNS Scaffold	Scaffold
Dontel Roofing	Roofing
Lodge Roofing	Roofing/scaffold
Sustain	External Insulation works
Chaps	Plumbing / boiler replacement
BWC Construction	Ground works

MWC Disabled modular ramps
Cube Asbestos Surveys

Kier

Elite Contracts General Builders

Apollo are carrying out kitchen, bathrooms, external cyclical works and disabled adaptations using their direct employees who transferred from the Council at the start of the contract. Sub-contractors are also completing some bathrooms.

3. Have the contractors and the (sub) contractors delivered on time, to quality and assisted catch up on time lost in 2011?

The planned works contract started in July 2011. This was three months later than planned because staff - transfer negotiations took longer than expected.

£5.3m of work has been ordered under the Apollo contract compared with the £4.5m forecast at the time of tendering the contract. At February 2012 the amount assessed as due for payment is £2.5m. The March 2012 payment is currently being assessed.

The Estate and Facilities team have had concerns about the slow progress of works in the first six months of the contract. However Apollo have mobilized their supply chain and have a full site team in place working from a shared office at Mill Road depot. Apollo have given assurances that all work ordered will be completed by the end of Year 1 of the contract in July 2012.

An internal audit of the planned maintenance contract management in November 2011 and gave a "significant" assurance rating.

A comprehensive contract performance review for Apollo has been completed for the first six months of the contract.

The Council has also placed orders for some planned works with Kier Services, who were appointed as the secondary contractor. The works include internal fire safety improvements at Ekin Road flats.

3. Councillor Herbert to the Leader of the Council

a) Can she update the Council on any progress in recovering the money that was never repaid for Folk Festival ticket receipts, on the position in relation to the earlier police inquiries, and on the current Insolvency Service investigation?

b) What does the Council think happened to the money?

c) Will she also write to the then Managing Director of SecureTicket, and invite him to Cambridge to explain where the city's money gone, after it was removed by the company from the 'secure account'?

Response:

a) Can she update the Council on any progress in recovering the money that was never repaid for Folk Festival ticket receipts, on the position in relation to the earlier police inquiries, and on the current Insolvency Service investigation?

1. The Police Investigation.

Hampshire Police investigated possible offences committed by directors of Secure Ticket (UK) Ltd. An arrest was made in March 2011.

Hampshire Police announced in August 2011 that they and the Crown Prosecution Service had decided not to bring a prosecution. The Crown Prosecution Service decided that they were not able to prove dishonesty beyond reasonable doubt.

It is very disappointing that the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service do not feel able take action but we have no reason to doubt that they carried out a thorough investigation.

2. Proceedings by DBIS (the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills).

In November 2010 one of the directors of the company, Michael Barnard, was disqualified from being the director of a company for nine years, following an investigation by the Insolvency Service. Action against the other directors was delayed by ill-health. These proceedings are being defended by both Mr Qajar and Mrs Oakley. Whilst there have been preliminary hearings, there is not yet a date for trial and the solicitor for DBIS does not anticipate that the matter will come before the court for trial until much later this year, or possibly early next. Council officers are co-operating with DBIS in relation to the proceedings.

3. Possible recovery action through the liquidator

SecureTicket (UK) Ltd went into administration with very limited assets and significant debt. Therefore it is not possible to recover the money from the company itself. As SecureTicket (UK) Ltd is in administration, the right to take action to seek to recover sums from third parties is given to the administrator, and the Council cannot take legal action in its own right. The City Council is therefore in contact with the administrators, Tenon Recovery, to explore steps to recover the money it has lost. The Council has been dealing with Tenon Recovery on a confidential basis and it is not possible to offer further information in response to a public question.

b) What does the Council think happened to the money?

We understand that the Folk Festival receipts were at first placed in a general client account of SecureTicket (UK) Ltd. Payments were then made both direct from the client account and via the company's current account. These payments were to a variety of parties, including related companies, third parties, employees and some payments to directors.

c) Will she also write to the then Managing Director of SecureTicket, and invite him to Cambridge to explain where the city's money gone, after it was removed by the company from the 'secure account'?

I am happy for an invitation to be extended and would welcome the opportunity this would give him to come and answer questions from the people of Cambridge.

4. Councillor Herbert to the Executive Councillor for Arts, Sport and Public Places

Given

- his media statement that over £80,000 would be provided to fund community organised 2012 Jubilee and Olympic-linked events,

Response:

Area Committee Budget for 2012-13

Leisure (£29,000) and Community Development (£55,000) grants have now been merged to provide a sum of £84,000 for Area Committee grants. This budget has been divided between the area committees in accordance with population and other considerations:

The amount available for each area is as follows:

Committee	%	£
North	37.8	31,752
South	20	16,800
East	32.2	27,048
West Central	10	8,400

This sum is the total for ACs and not limited to Jubilee and Olympic Events.

and

- That any grants under his arrangements would already have to have been submitted for groups to get prior funding for any of these events,

Response:

Any group can apply at any time for this funding if they meet the criteria in the guidelines (and as long as there's budget remaining, which there currently is). Constituted groups apply via the Cambridge Community Foundation, and non-constituted groups directly via the Council's own grants team. This can be done by area committees or for smaller sums applications can also be approved via Officer and Chair's Action.

a) What is the total of such funding that has been agreed to date?

Response:

See below for details – this includes applications from non-constituted groups.

b) What is the value of applications that will shortly be proposed at the 3 other Area Committees still to meet?

Response:

This is included below

c) What is his figure for the likely total funding for these community events? And

Response:

Its not possible to say, and depends on bids received but we hope we have made flexible arrangements to be able to respond to applications received on an ongoing basis.

d) Will he consider a fresh initiative to allow more groups to apply?

Response:

The initiative has received media publicity and a number of councillors have publicised the information in their communities

Olympic & Jubilee Bids and Awards @ 16.4.12

Awards

Hemingford Road	East	Jubilee & Olympics Street Party	£1,000.00
Barnwell Baptist Church	East	Jubilee BBQ and Olympic torch event	£250.00
28th Cambridge (St John's) Scout Group	East	Jubilee Street Party	£500.00
Sunshine Group	North	Jubilee Party	£300.00
Highfield Avenue	North	Jubilee Street party	£225.00
Not Quite over the hill	North	Jubilee tea party	£300.00
Meadows Centre Bowlers	North	Jubilee and Olympic tea parties	£100.00

Bids

£2,675.00

Cambridge & County Folk Museum	West	Street Party reminiscence project and event	£1,000.00
Cherry Hinton Residents Association	South	Jubilee Party	£900.00
Bermuda Community Room	North	Street Party	£600.00
Vie Residents Association	North	Local Olympic celebration inc street party	£338.30

£2,838.30

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