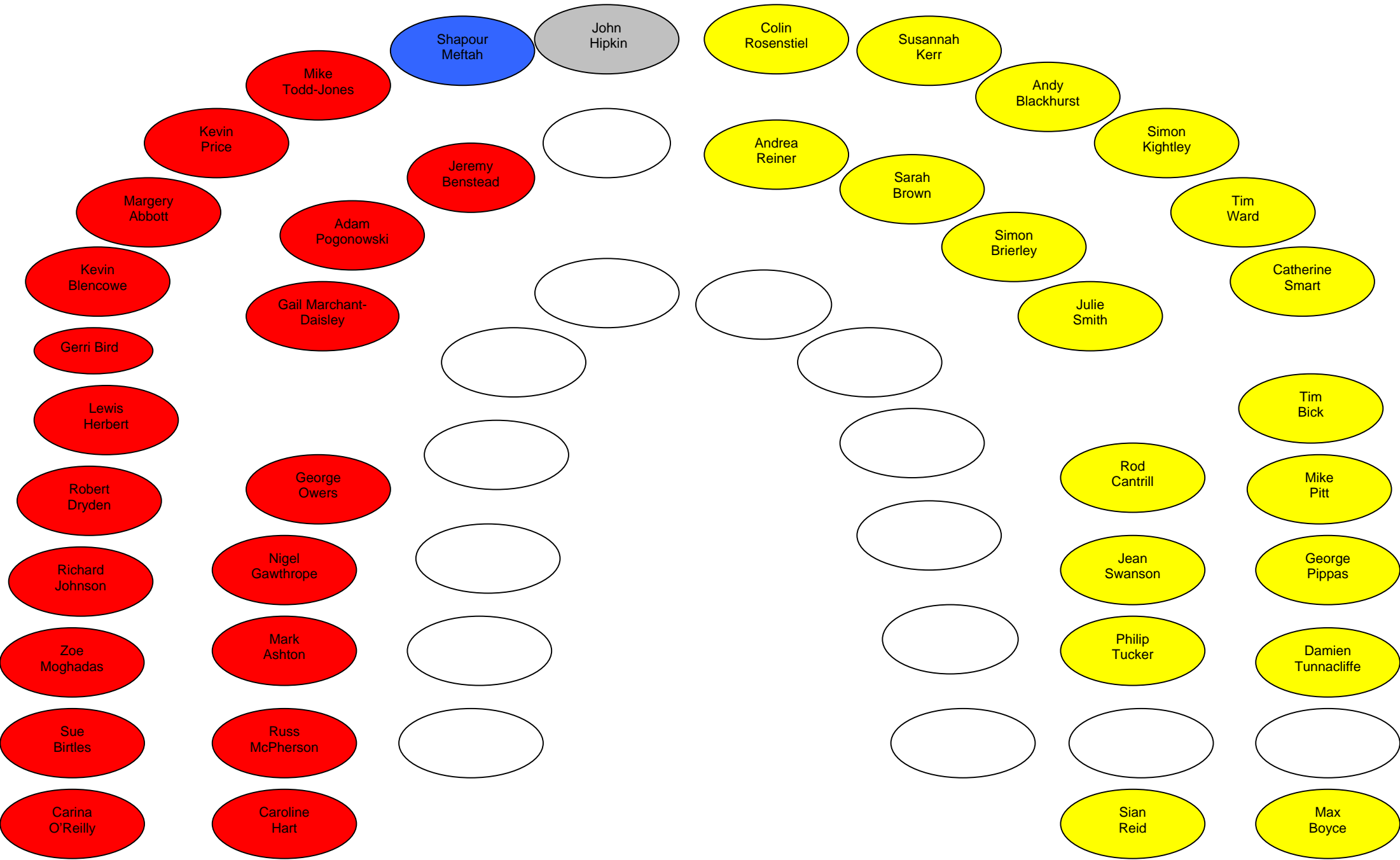




CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Council Information Pack October 2012

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The Chief Executive, Antoinette Jackson

Head of Legal Services, Simon Pugh

The Mayor Sheila Stuart

The Deputy Mayor Paul Saunders

The Mayor's Chaplain

Oral Questions for Council (in order for Council)

1. Councillor Reid to the Executive Councillor for Arts, Sport and Public Places

Residents have expressed concern that the car park in Lammas Land is being used by commuters, therefore making it difficult for families to park and use the facilities on Lammas Land. Could the Executive Councillor confirm the current barrier closure arrangements that are in place, and what additional measures the Council may put in place to improve the service for residents?

2. Councillor Blackhurst to the Executive Councillor for Arts, Sport and Public Places

"What consideration has been given to naming the open space in the Green Corridor at Trumpington?"

3. Councillor Owers to the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health:

What solid progress has been made on implementing the Labour motion passed recently at council which resolves to support the development of credit unions in Cambridge?

4. Councillor Herbert to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources (1)

Given the unacceptable weekend interruption to emergency telephone services resulting from Bank Holiday weekend flooding, and city CCTV being out of action for several days, how will the Council prevent this happening again?

5. Councillor Marchant-Daisley to Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change

What arrangements have been put in place to ensure that the Council complies with its duty under the Localism Act to co-operate with neighbouring authorities (the "Duty to Co-Operate"); what detailed working arrangements are in place to ensure that, in the absence of a single joint plan with S Cambs & the County Council, the Council is able to deliver an integrated, sustainable plan for the future of the City that provides for sustainable development supported by appropriate infrastructure & what are the consequences if the Council is found to have failed in the duty to co-operate?"

6. Councillor Johnson to the Leader

Does the Leader of the Council agree that the ruling group, based on its failure to find where £619,000 of taxpayers' money went from the 2008 Folk Festival, and who recently voted to write it off, should have undertaken at least one effective council led investigation to discover where the money eventually ended up and to recover any money that remained unspent?

7. Councillor Herbert to the Leader (2)

Why is he opposed to returning to the Committee system for running council business?

Motion 7b for council 25 October 2012 – Revised 25 October - Cllr Price:

Amendment below from Cllr Smart

Delete all and replace with:-

This Council

Supports the continued building of additional Council affordable housing, with the aim of building at least 650 additional homes by 2020, including 146 by 2015.

Notes that, while the present residents cannot have a veto on the programme, they should be kept fully informed of the plans and reassured that help, both financial and supportive, will be given them should the plans include the redevelopment of existing houses.

Greatly regrets that there has not always been adequate and appropriate communication to some of the residents affected by the present programme.

Notes that there is an annual report on all sites in the Council's current programme, including those which propose redevelopment of existing housing, at the June meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

Requests that future reports give a detailed account of the consultation and communication that has taken place with the residents principally affected by the programme,

Requests also that future reports give details of the houses that are being considered for redevelopment including their size, setting, lettability and potential future repair costs.

Requests that a steering group is set up to over-see the development of the programme: the group would consist of the Executive Councillor for Housing, the Chair of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee, the opposition Spokesperson on the Community Services Scrutiny Committee and an elected Tenant or Leaseholder representative.

Motion 7d for council 25 October 2012 - Cllr Benstead – Revised 25 October:

Amendment below from Cllr Bick

The Council supports the opportunity of city centre businesses to make a clear choice one way or other on a Business Improvement District (BID).

It notes the comprehensive officer report to the October 3rd Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on all aspects of the BID process including the veto power, and the agreed recommendations to the Leader that there were no grounds to exercise it, leaving the participants themselves to resolve the issue in the ballot.

For leadership and decision making of public matters within the city centre, the Council welcomes:

- the current process of formulating a new Local Plan through which the city centre has been identified for focused study and consultation with all city residents and stakeholders, including the County Council;
- the recently adopted approach to developer contributions providing a citywide strategic fund for investment in the public realm, for which the city centre would be a potential candidate
- the contribution of the West-Central Area committee, on behalf of residents of the city centre, to environmental improvements, community safety and planning, in which they are often joined by organisations and traders and residents of other parts of the city
- the oversight and customization of the Council's general service offering in the city centre through its central committee structure, involving councillors from across the city, which triggers wider consultation where applicable.

~~The Council notes that it holds a power, in limited circumstances, to veto the Business Improvement District (BID) proposals, on which businesses within the BID area are being balloted. Depending on the outcome of the ballot, the Council asks officers, immediately after the conclusion of the ballot:~~

~~-To prepare a report setting out the circumstances that might justify a veto~~

~~-To send the report to the Leader and to the Chair and Spokes of Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, so their comments may inform the Leader's decision on whether or not to use the veto power.~~

~~The Council also requests a report by officers to the next meeting of the Committee on options for working with the County Council to improve city centre policy making and service deliver. This needs to include improved engagement of residents as well as business representatives, the University and wider parties, and recognise that all Cambridge residents have an interest in, and the right to a say, in the effective running of the City Centre.~~

Motion 7e – Proposed amendment (Cllr Price)

Labour's proposed amendment to motion 7e shown through struck out text.

Council notes:

- A living wage was first established in the UK in 2001
- Currently the living wage rate is £7.20p per hour outside London (the “Living Wage”), calculated using incomes and prices data on a system developed and maintained by the Centre for Research and Social Policy at Loughborough University
- According to charity Barnardo’s over 58% of children who live in poverty in the UK have at least one parent in paid work
- The Living Wage Foundation estimates over 10,000 families have been helped out of working poverty across the UK as a result of the living wage
- Recent tax changes put in place by the Liberal Democrats as part of the Coalition Government that provided a tax cut of £220 per year for low paid individuals has lifted many of the low paid out of the tax threshold
- That key components of the cost of living (food and utilities) continue to being challenging for residents of the city
- The Living Wage Week during 4th – 10th November 2012 will actively promote the living wage across the UK

Council believes:

- The national minimum wage was an important development to ensure a basic level of income for the lowest paid

- However, given the cost of living in Cambridge the minimum wage is not enough for an individual or a family to avoid living in poverty with all the ill effects that has
- A living wage is considered the minimum wage needed to provide 'adequate income' to ensure social inclusion for an individual or their family
- As one of the City's biggest employers, the City Council ~~can~~ will help promote the living wage in Cambridge by becoming a 'living wage employer'
- That the procurement strategy of the City Council can influence and encourage our partners in service delivery to uphold the same approach as ours

Council requests that the Executive Councillor for Customer Services & Resources:

- Bring forward proposals that:
 - o Ensure all employees receive at least the Living Wage as soon as practicable and by no later than April 2013; and
 - o Ensure all agency and temporary staff receive the Living Wage as part of the Budget process for 2013/2014~~Explore agency staff receiving the Living Wage as part of the Budget process for 2013/2014~~; and
 - o Change the Council's procurement processes to ensure contractors adopt the same position and, as legislation permits, insist that contractors meet the living wage obligation~~Explore changing the Council's procurement processes to encourage contractors to adopt a similar position and as legislation permits insist that contractors meet the living wage obligation~~
- Writes to the MPs in Cambridge seeking their support and asking them to campaign for the living wage in the City