ASKING BRISTOL

GIVING AND VOLUNTEERING WITH PULL NOT PUSH

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PRELUDE

Several unsubstantiated assertions follow . . . .

. . . . some substantiation is available in a longer version

AN AMBITION

To transform Bristol from *super-connected* to *hyper-connected* City

in which

asking is democratized

and

giving (of things and time) is second-nature

Hampered by Friction

- Too slow
- Too imperfect
- Too expensive
- Too few askers
- Too few givers

Magnified in the era of Coronavirus

WHY NOW?

1. The scale is extreme in every dimension
   a. The number of *askers*
   b. The number of *givers and volunteers*
      i. Many of them new to giving and volunteering

2. The urgency/immediacy is acute

3. The specificity of the *asks* & *gives* is too fuzzy

THE *ASKING* LANDSCAPE FROM BS1 TO BS49

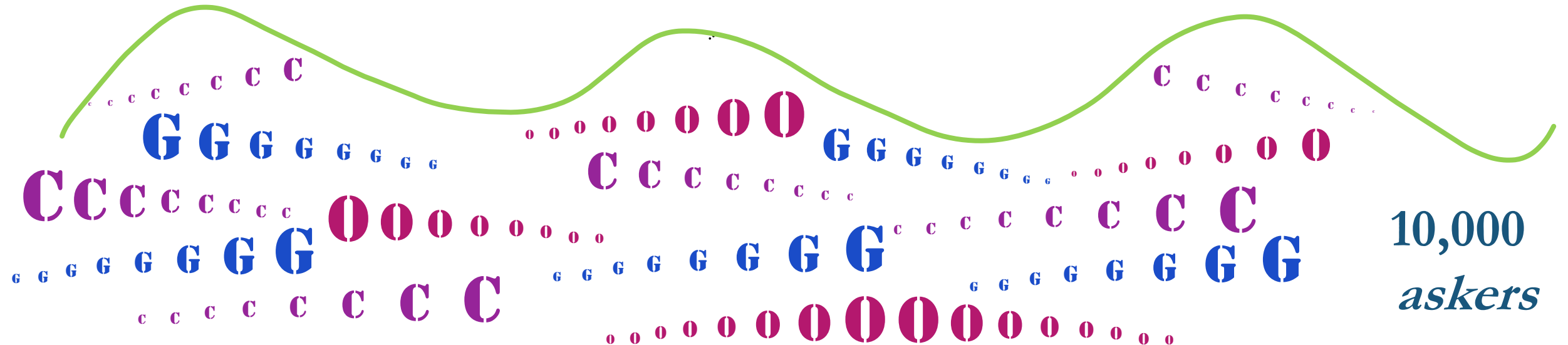**C** Charities: local, regional, local arms of national

O Organizations: schools, healthcare, arts, sports, …

G Voluntary/Community Groups

All sizes
All locations
All focus areas

10,000
askers

WHAT'S BEING *ASKED* FOR?

£ Money

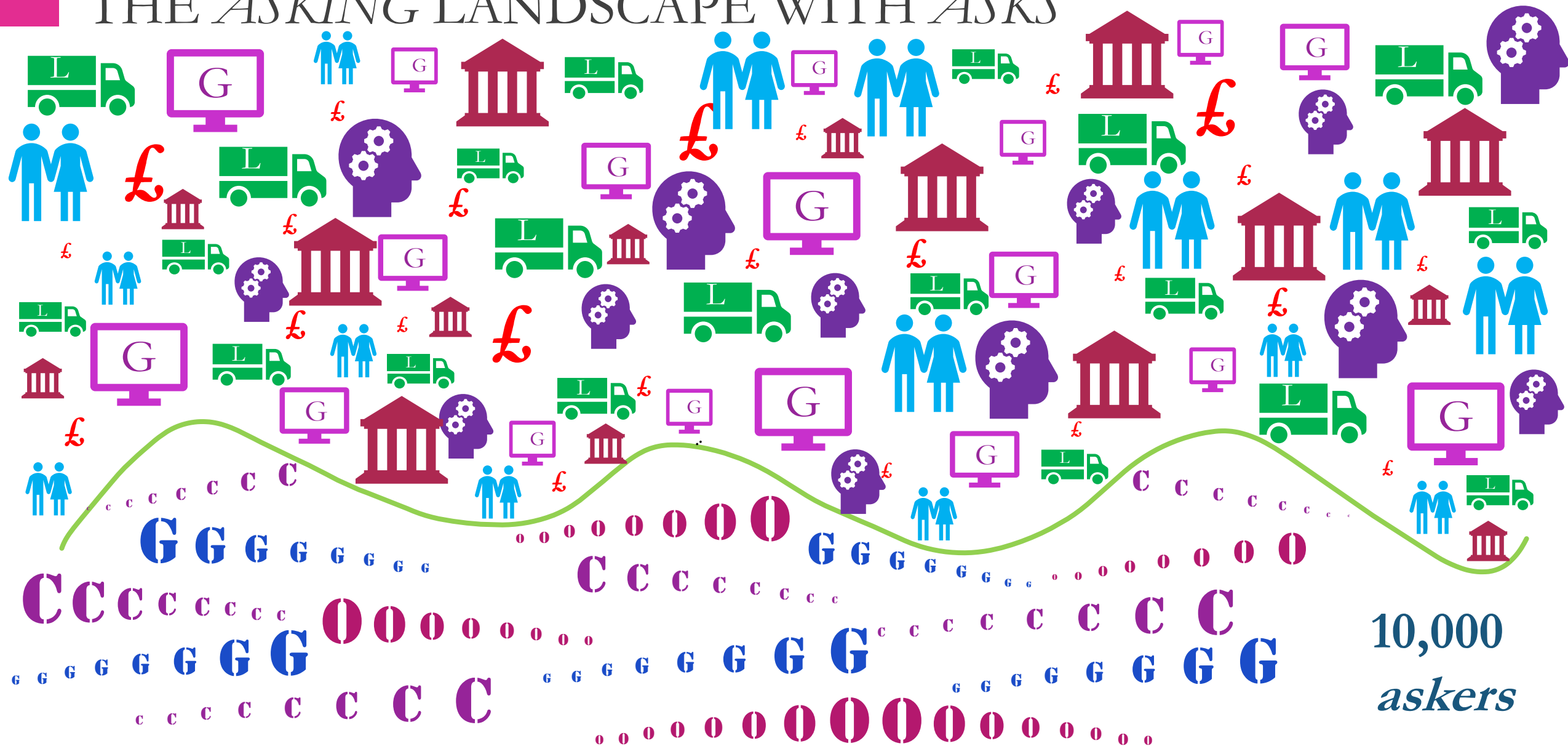Services – *pro bono*

G Things - given

People - volunteers

L Things - lent
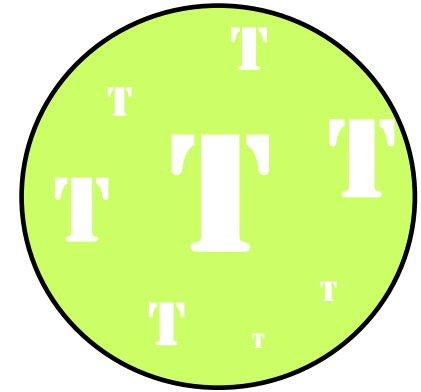
Spaces

THE *ASKING* LANDSCAPE WITH *ASKS*

100,000+ *asks*

10,000 *askers*

WHO WILL ANSWER THE *ASKS*?

Individuals
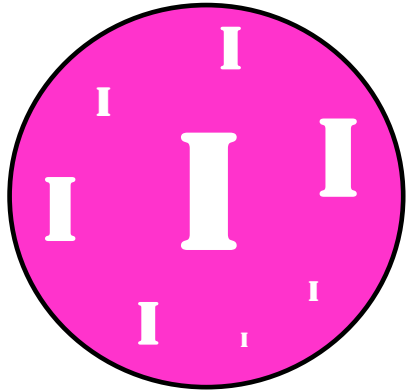
Trusts

Businesses
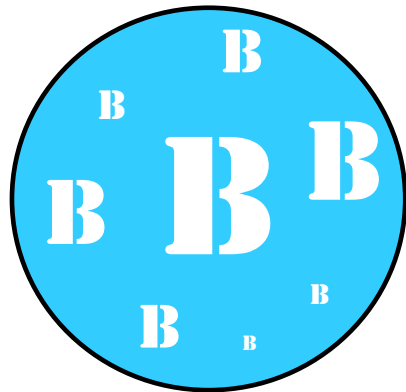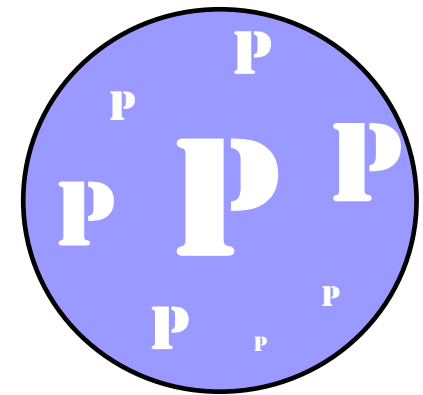
Public Bodies
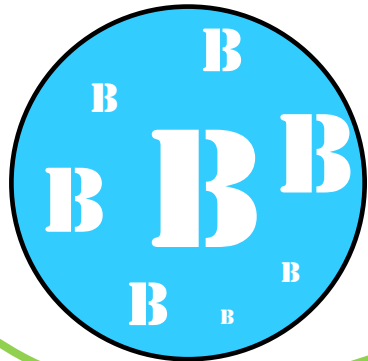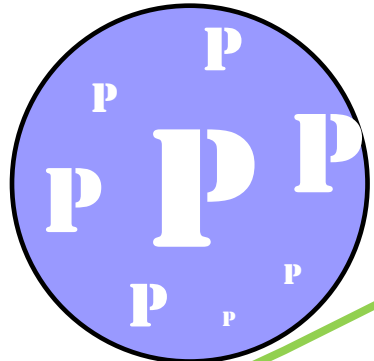
ASKS AND OFFERS

How do we remove *friction* from this messy picture?
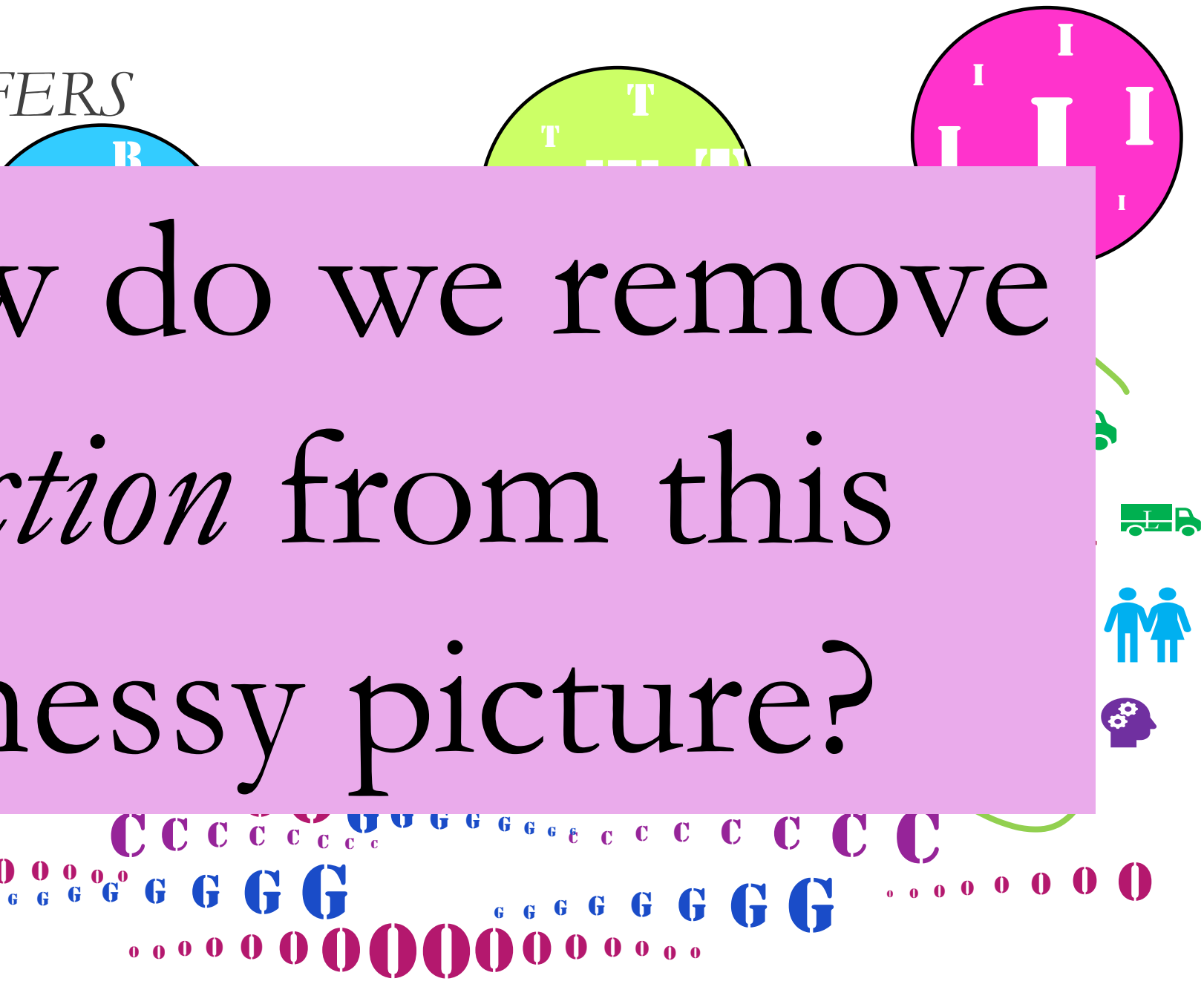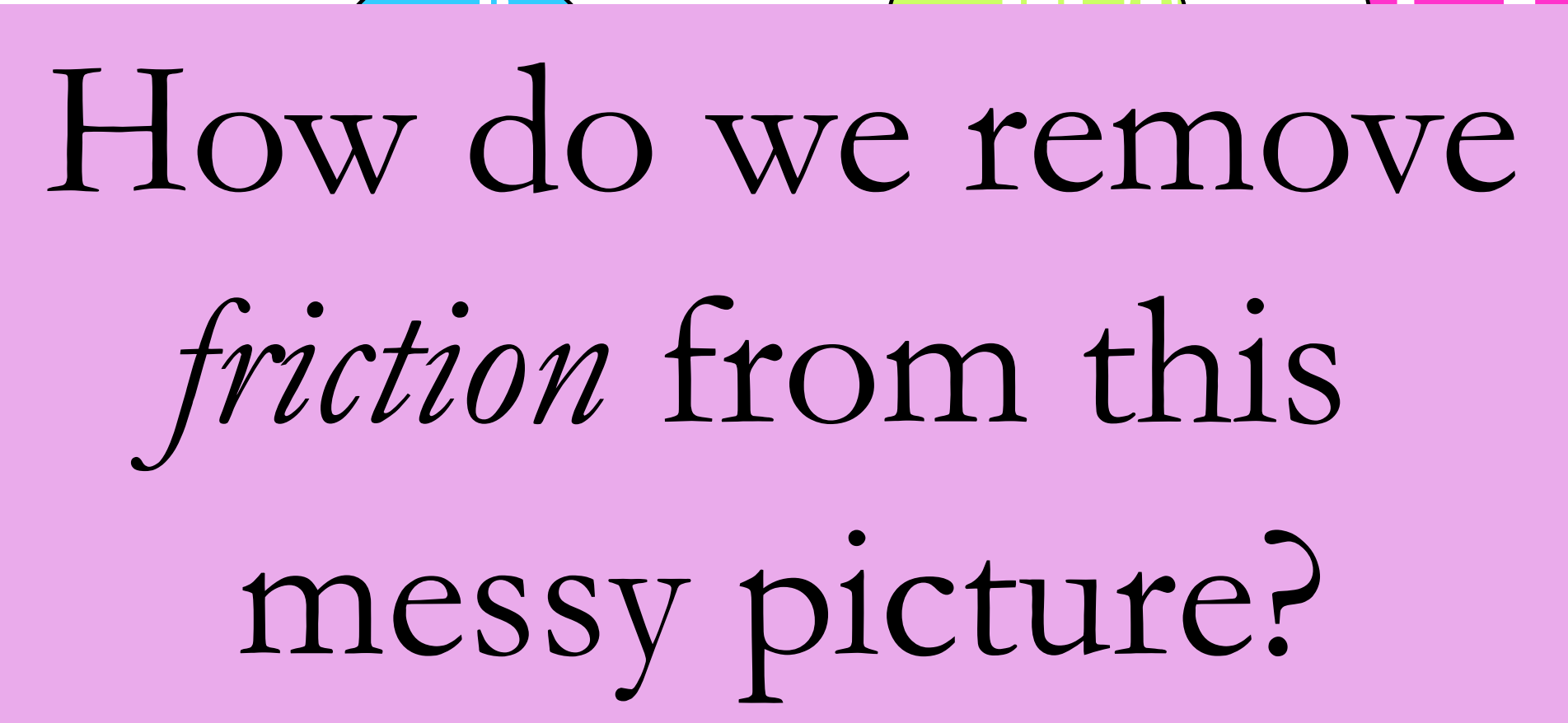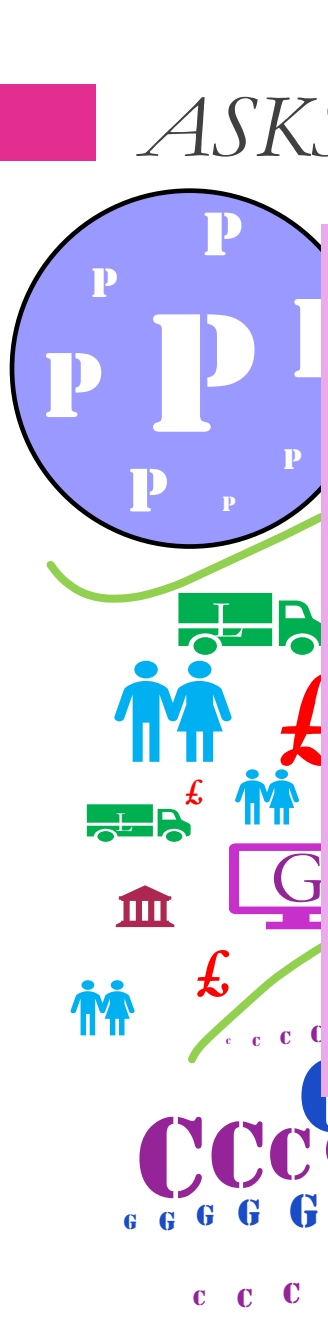
SOME (UNTESTED) IDEAS *- based on Net+Web+Cloud thinking*

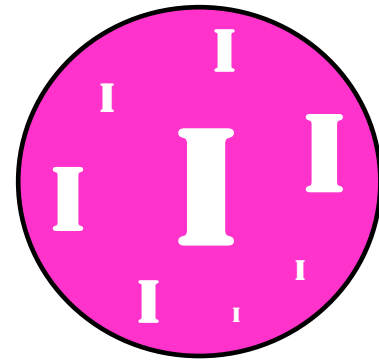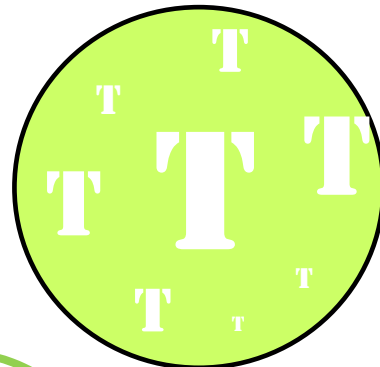1. Eliminate fuzzy *gives*

2. Make *asks* very specific

3. Disintermediate **–** engage voluntary facilitators not intermediaries
   1. *AskAuthors* **–** buddies for each charity who extract, refine and own their *asks*
   2. *SuperConnectors* **–** people who know a lot of people, businesses and organizations

4. Democratize *asking* **–** treat the smallest charity the same as the largest

5. Create long-term relationships between matched *askers* and *givers*

6. It's not all about cash

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Over 80% of charitable giving goes to 4% of charities (167,000 registered charities)

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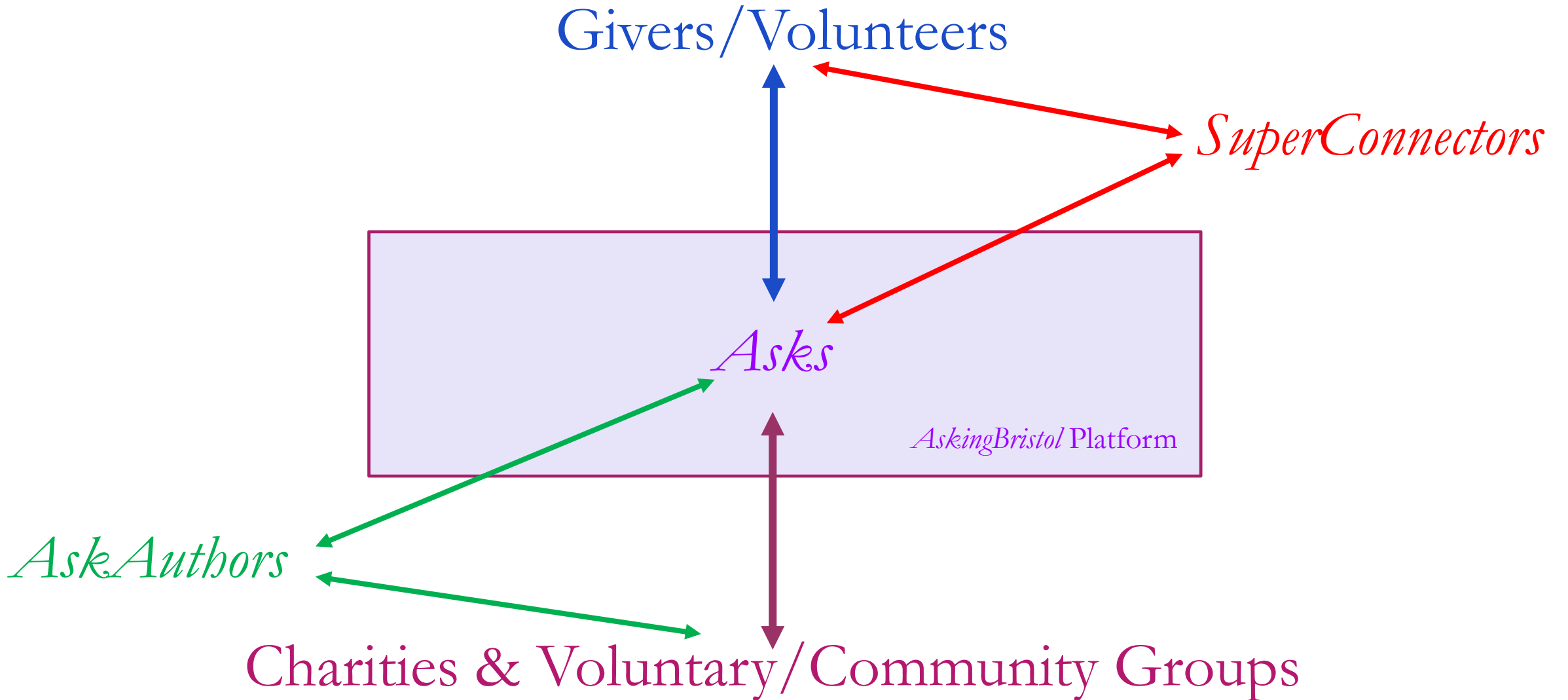
6. It's not all about cash

THE ESSENCE OF *ASKINGBRISTOL*

Givers/Volunteers

SuperConnectors

Asks

AskingBristol Platform

AskAuthors

Charities & Voluntary/Community Groups

WHAT'S NEXT?

1. **This is Research.   Do an experiment (problem statement, hypotheses, …)**

2. **Recruit some charities & voluntary/community groups of different types**

3. **Recruit some *AskAuthors* (varied)**

4. **Build a simple platform**

5. **Collect *asks* and place on the platform**

6. **Target *SuperConnectors* who could creates matches**

7. **Each successful match is a story**

HOW BIG IS THE EXPERIMENT?

depends on the *asks*

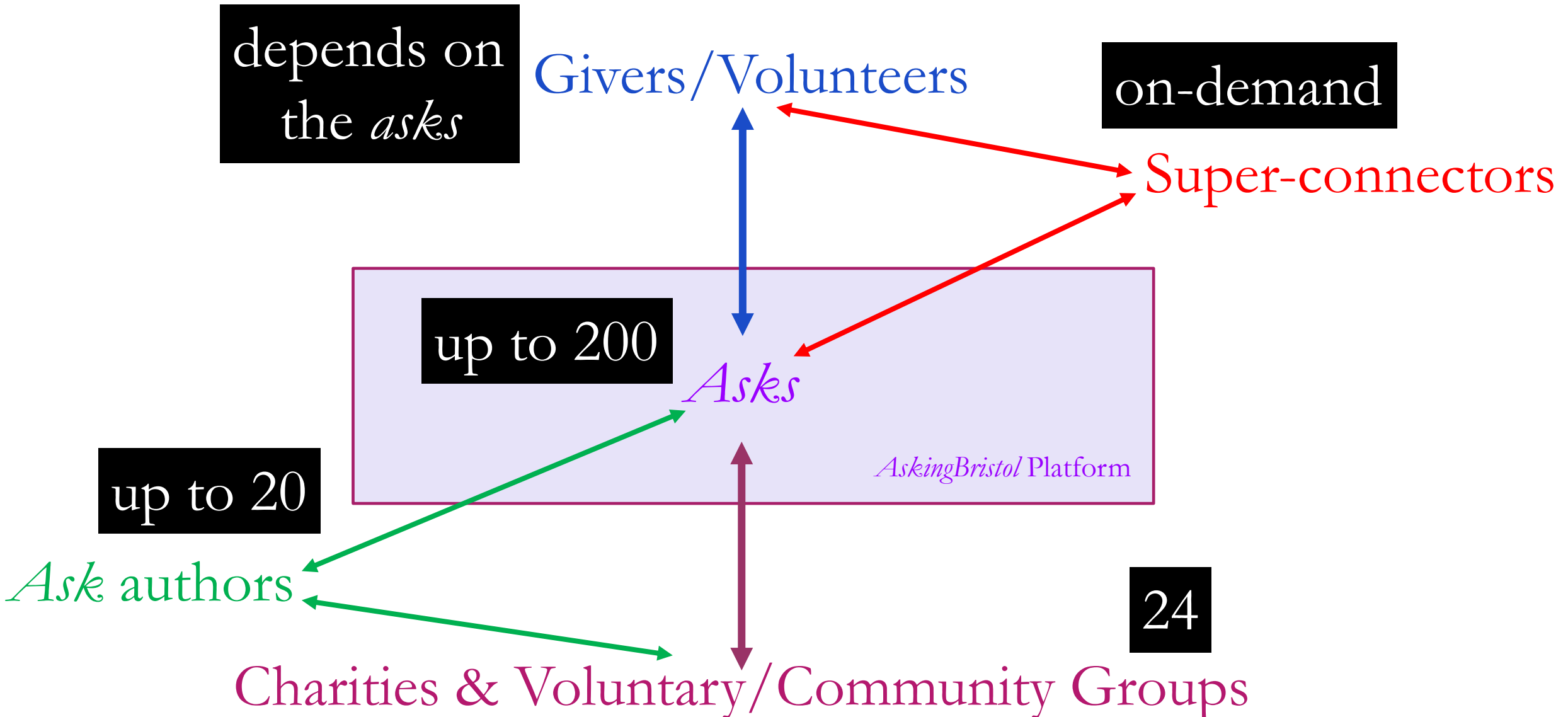Givers/Volunteers

on-demand

Super-connectors

up to 200

Asks

AskingBristol Platform

up to 20

Ask authors

Charities & Voluntary/Community Groups

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ONE LESS-ABSTRACT SLIDE

- 50 new pairs for trainers for homeless men in a hostel in Easton (PPAAP)
- 20-25ft Christmas tree for planting (Ambition Lawrence Weston)
- Heated pie display cabinet (Redcatch Community Garden)
- Franchising advice – legal (including IP) and commercial (C.H.E.E.S.E.)
- Donated bicycles for renovation at HMP Bristol (Life Cycle)
- Cherry picker loan for Christmas lights (Ambition Lawrence Weston)
- Theatrical props (Unique Voice)
- Car park gravel (Bristol Sea Cadets)
- Video editing training (Gympanzees)
- Corporate tax rebate advice on donations of computers by companies (Digilocal)
- Venue for Curry N Conversation lunches & workshops (PPAAP)
- New cardboard boxes (North West Bristol Food Bank)
- Money to buy a bike hanger (Life Cycle)
- Help in producing promo videos (Walking Tennis)

AN OBSERVATION

Many of these *asks* seem quite small but they are transformational for those charities.

There are thousands of volunteers in these groups in Bristol working their hardest to help the vulnerable and less-advantaged in our City
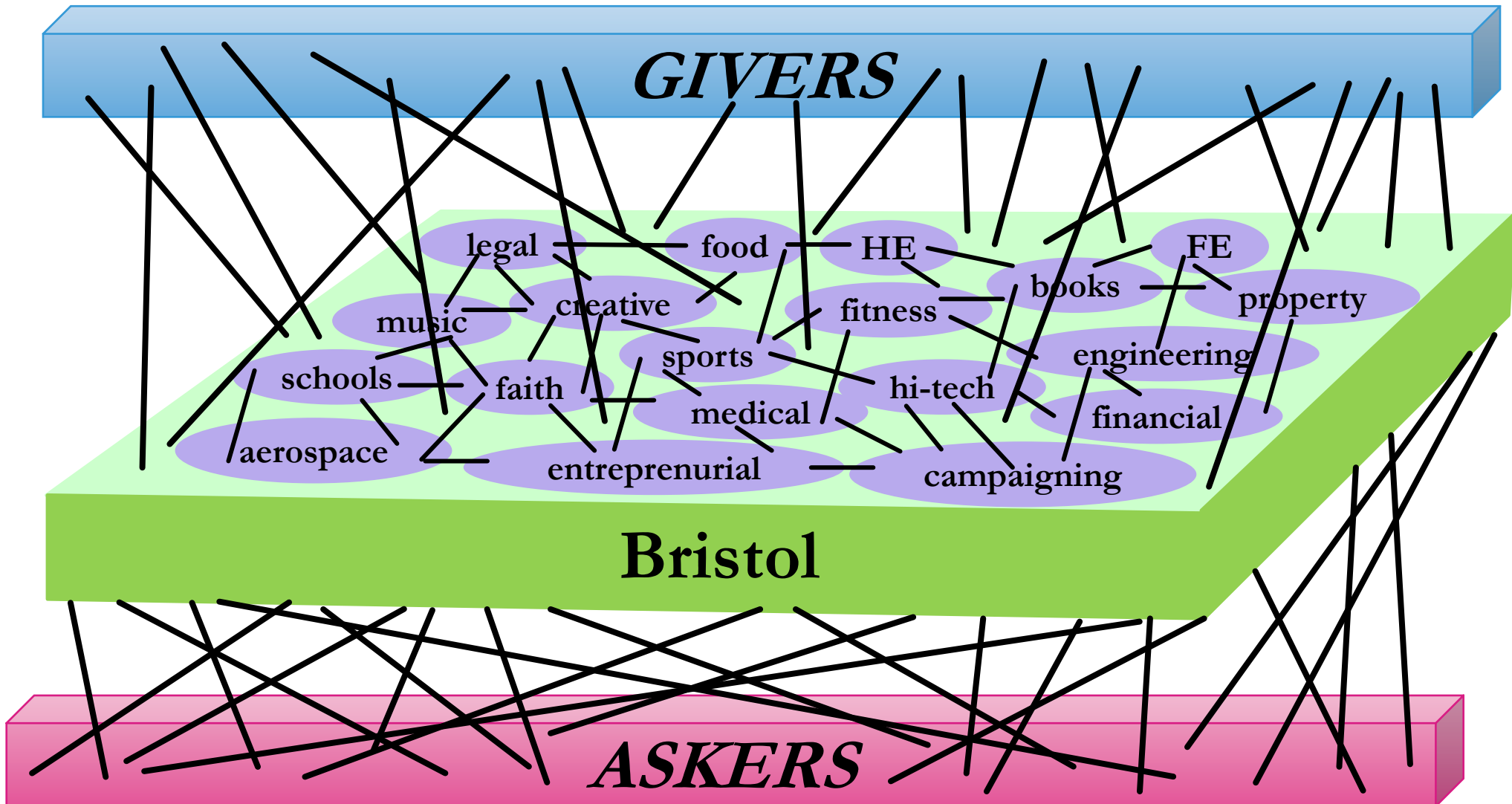
Often they don't know how or where to ask.
As well-connected people we can easily help them.

BRISTOL IS A VILLAGE
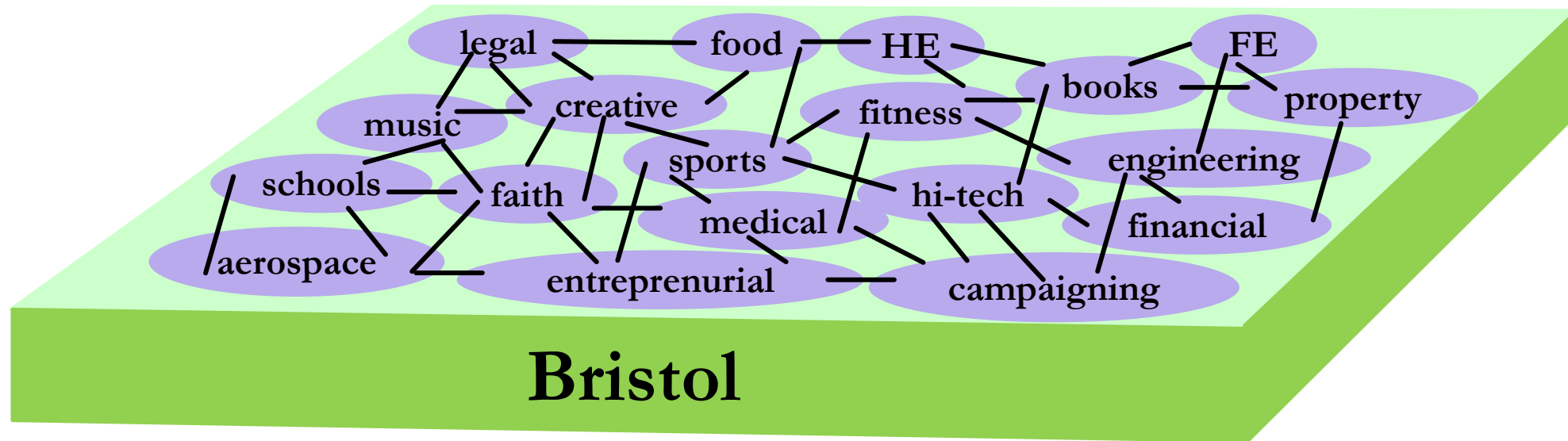
Final assertion: everyone here belongs to multiple overlapping communities. You all have tens/hundreds of friends/acquaintances in this City. This is what makes Bristol *Superconnected*

SUPERCONNECTED ➞ HYPERCONNECTED

GIVERS

legal · food · HE · FE
creative · books · property
music · fitness
schools · faith · sports · engineering
aerospace · medical · hi-tech · financial
entreprenurial · campaigning

Bristol

ASKERS

ANY QUESTIONS OR FOLLOW UP . . . .

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