

C-PCG for Lambeth Board Meeting

Note of the Meeting 24 April 2007 at CPCG Office

PRESENT: Doye Akinlade (DA), Canon Ivelaw Bowman (IB), Shane Collins (SH), Gill Kenealy (GK), Jim Toohill (JT), Abdul Sultan Virani (ASV), Ben McKendrick (BM)

1. APOLOGIES: Anna Tapsell (AT), Paul Andell (PA), Paul Reynolds (PR), Cheryl Sealey (CS)

2. Minutes and Matters Arising from Board Meeting 20 March 07

Minutes of the Meeting 20 March 2007 were accepted with the 2 amendments

ACTIONS

Matters Arising

Lambeth Housing

JT said that he had spoken with Chris Lee, LBL Executive Director of Regeneration and Housing, and had been informed that the report into the attempted suicide at Tulse Hill in November 2006 had been completed and would be forwarded to the Group.

JT said that GK, CS, AT and he had attended a briefing concerning evictions at Penzance House, Kennington, while AT, PR, BM and he had attended another briefing on the morning of the evictions two weeks later. He added that AT, CS, GK, PR, BM and himself had acted as Community Observers during the evictions which were concluded by around midday.

JT said the Council were not present at the start of the eviction, which began at 8.00 a.m., but had taken on board AT's suggestion to organise minicabs to ferry people to the Homeless Persons Unit. GK had attended the Unit with those taken there.

JT said that AT, PR, GK and CS and he had attended a post raid/eviction meeting concerning the Rastafarian temple in St Agnes Place. The meeting had been emotional but not aggressive. Subsequently, he said that WS and he had met individuals from the Ethiopian Welfare Federation (EWF), which ran the temple, who expressed concern about people arrested for small amounts of cannabis and the loss of reputation of those connected to the temple. Three people had been charged out of twenty-three arrested.

JT said the Temple had been subject to a 'crack-house' closure by the police.

Invite Brgh. Cmdr.
Martin Bridger (MB)
to the next Board

WS said that there was a need to pick up on media reports that the police had stated that the temple was a crack den when there wasn't enough crack found there to charge with intent to supply.

meeting on 15
May JT/AT

JT said that the EWF needed to produce a story to counter the damage to their reputation, which he added the police would back up.

Seek an update about the persons being sought in connection with the Rastafarian Temple JT/AT

In response to SC, JT said that discussion was ongoing as to where a new temple would be situated. However, he said that there was more equanimity than he expected amongst the EWF, who appeared to be reconciled with the fact that they wouldn't be able to return. He added that they appeared to have faith in John Kerridge (JK), LBL Asst. Dir. Housing, and there was a possibility of the temple being housed at the Karibu Centre.

Formally ask MB to inform CPCG when Operation Neon initiatives would be taking place so that the Group could decide whether it wanted to send observers JT/AT

In response to ASV, JT said that the temple had been squatted.

In response to GK, JT said there was good reason to believe that there had been an agreement to vacate the premises prior to the raid. GK said that CPCG needed to keep an eye on what happens with Rushcroft Road.

GK said that with one person having had a Taser used against him the police appeared to have been heavy handed considering that the EWF had approached them for help.

In response to WS who questioned why CPCG was not invited to observe the raid, which may have led to the police not using a Taser, IB said that there needed to be something built into CPCG system whereby CPCG was always notified of important events in order that it could open a file and keep a record of its knowledge and involvement.

GK said that the police seemed to pick and choose when it informed CPCG about Operation Neon initiatives and should ask to be kept informed.

Ask MB for a report on the number of Operation Neon initiatives with a written commentary to be provided on a monthly basis JT/AT

As discussed at the Board's awayday, JT said that AT had only been informed of the raid eight hours before it had taken place and that the only other people besides the police who knew about it were Lee Jasper (GLA) and John Roberts (MPA).

In respect of what the police told CPCG about operations and events, JT said that it was necessary to set out some parameters and rules of engagement.

Ask MB how many victims of violent crime were involved with Phoenix WS

In response to IB, JT said that the police officer overseeing the raid had not considered it to have been a success. In respect of the EWF religious paraphernalia, JT said that it had been stored and would be returned.

WS said that CPCG needed to ask Brgh. Cmdr. Martin Bridger a number of questions emanating from the raid such as outstanding suspects and

possible links of ammunition recovered to firearms incidents.

Ask MB for an update on the Gun Crime Consortium evaluation and the impact of the resignation of Jan Forson, the Consortium's Chairperson JT/AT

In relation to firearms WS said that the Gun Crime Consortium needed to be scrutinised, particularly in light of the Consortium's Chair, Jan Forson, resigning. IB said that CPCG needed to know what was going on and JT proposed asking MB questions at the next Board meeting.

In response to WS, JT said that gun crime had declined in London although violent woundings had increased. GK, however, said that gun crime amongst young people had risen 50%

Safer Neighbourhoods (SNs)

JT referred to the Council's proposed involvement with SNs which would see an enhanced role for Lambeth councillors and of their membership of SN panels.

SC said enhanced SNs would marginalise town centre based forums.

In response to WS, JT said that CPCG needed to champion SN panels. As such, he said a CPCG organised SN conference was being proposed.

Community ID Cards

Discussion concerning who should be responsible for issuing Community ID Cards and to whom they should be issued remained unresolved. JT suggested that as an initial start Board members should seek to have Criminal Record Bureau checks.

To obtain CRB checks for Board members as an initial way forward to obtaining Community Spokesperson ID

In response to GK, JT said that training for holders of Community ID Cards would be part of a package, as had similarly been highlighted in CPCG Action Plan for people observing police operations and attending Gold Groups.

3. Finance/Funding

JT provided the Board members present with a Provisional Year End financial position.

JT said that at the next Board meeting members should look at how to move forward with the proposed Parenting conference.

To examine at the next Board meeting how to move forward with the Parenting conference CS

WS said that Choice FM had funds available for reducing violent crime.

JT reported that progress was being made with resolving the outstanding personnel issue with the MPA

WS to look into Choice FM's *Peace on the Streets* website with a view to raising CPCG profile and bidding for funding WS

4. Reports

JT said that AT and PR had attended a Guns, Knives and Gangs conference organised by Lewisham CPCG on 13 April.

GK said that she had attended a meeting at Frank O'Neill House on concerning the policing of of the Olympic Games in 2012. GK said that Asst. Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur was present. GK said that although she was at the meeting, which had implications for Lambeth policing, she had not been invited as a CPCG representative and that someone from CPCG should have been invited.

GK said that matters brought up at the meeting were the use of police officers from other parts of the country and abroad and abstraction of Lambeth officers. She added that two scenarios took place every week to test resources and LBL Ch. Exec. Derrick Anderson was concerned about the impact on policing in Lambeth.

WS said that the Olympics would be no different to other abstractions of police officers from Lambeth, such as occurred following the 7/7 bombings.

JT questioned at what point the police should call upon CPCG to discuss the issues. JT added that MB and JR could be asked about 'looming issues', at the next Board meeting.

Request MB and John Roberts (JR) to always keep the Board informed of any big issues looming JT/AT

GK said that the person who had given the presentation was keen to engage and would like to give a presentation to CPCG meeting.

JT said that he had attended Brixton Town Centre Safer Neighbourhood Panel's meeting on 14 April at which the Panel agreed to support a Dispersal Zone for the residential streets between midnight and 6 am. The panel declined to support a proposal from the police for a dispersal zone for the whole of the Town Centre (excluding the Peace Gardens) from 6pm to 6am, or a separate proposal from LBL for a zone covering the Peace Gardens.

SC said that the assault on residents' quality of life was due to bad drug laws.

IB said that if the police were honest they would acknowledge that they had given up on the area from Boots Chemist and KFC on Brixton Road in terms of policing drug dealers.

5. Group Meetings

Forward Planning

May – Stop and Search

It was agreed to have a presentation

June – Policing the Transport System

have a presentation on *Policing the Transport System* at the June meeting
JT/AT

July – Terrorism

GK suggested inviting Assad from the Newham Monitoring Project to the meeting to talk about the impact of policing terrorism on the Muslim community. JT said that he felt that views on the issue would best be heard coming from the Lambeth Muslim community.

Board members interested in the *Terrorism* debate at the July meeting were asked to produce a list of topics suitable for discussion GK/SC and anyone else with an interest

Country Show

SC said he was looking into the possibility of sharing a tent at the Country Show with an organisation called Transition Brixton (TB) i.e. that CPCG and TB would have the tent one day each. However, he said that he wasn't sure they would be able to meet half the cost and he was open to suggestion. In terms of providing refreshments, he added that it already been taken care of and would involve paid young people 16 years or over.

JT referred to the original concept of having a debate about drugs in a different place (from the monthly CPCG meetings) with a structured programme. JT expressed his concern about sharing a tent with an organisation that was not community safety oriented and about CPCG's accountability in terms of costs.

DA said that were three main issues that CPCG needed to resolve; funding, manpower and structure of the event e.g. having a debating panel.

IB suggested that the work undertaken so far should be used towards producing a template for next year's Show, as CPCG didn't yet have the kind of literature needed to accompany such an event.

JT to look at the voluntary agency consortium seeking to hire a tent at the Country Show which CPCG could possibly share JT/SC

JT suggested that CPCG look into the possibility of sharing a space with a consortium of other voluntary organisations likely to seek a presence at the Country Show, such as Victim Support and the Lambeth DV Forum.

WS suggested asking the CPCG membership if they would be interested in raising the profile of their own organisations at the Country Show. He added that the matter had to be shored up, risk assessed with any new variants raised by the next Board meeting.

6. Sub-Groups

Youth

GK said that a letter would be sent to all those who had expressed an interest (at the February CPCG meeting) in the Youth sub-Group and invited to a meeting on 3 May.

GK to write to

Stop and Search

JT said that there had been an MPS level 1 investigation into the unaccounted halving of the number of stop and searches during 2006. This had concluded that the reduction was real, and not due to delays in data entry. He said that there had been an increase in the arrest rate, although less than compensating. However, there continued to be crime reduction and no obvious deterioration in sanction detection rates for the types of crime which Stop and Search was directed at.

He said the Sub-Group was on track for the presentation at the next meeting.

Mental Health

AT not present to update

Elders

ASV said that he had contacted AT concerning the Lambeth Pensioners' Action Group's (LPAG) to check diaries in relation to LPAG's involvement in Elder Abuse issues.

ASV said that one case had been brought to his attention, which was also being looked into by BM who was trying to set up a Block Case Review with Clive Simmonds, LBL Adult Services and others.

7. Lambeth Community Representatives Identification

See Matters Arising

8. Communications and Protocols

BM to progress.

9. A. O. B.

There was no other business

Signed as a true record: Anna Tapsell

Date: 15 May 2007