

Office Move

CPCG will be moving offices, in the last week in June, to the Eurolink Business Centre, 49 Effra Road, Brixton, London SW2 1BZ. Telephone and email contact details will remain the same. Faced with an all in increase in rent from £4k to £10k in our present accommodation, we set a target of £7k for a new premises. We shall be within the target.

Community Engagement Seminar

Anna Tapsell, Canon Ivelaw Bowman and Jim Toohill attended a one-day event entitled 'Community Engagement – A Coordinated Approach', hosted by Lambeth First. The largest attendance was from Local Authority staff and police, with community partners with speakers including Supt Jonathan Tottman (in place of Chief Insp Martin Bridger who was out of the country) and LBL CEO, Derek Anderson.

The aim was to inform the development of an integrated approach to community engagement, particularly in the light of the roll out of Safer Neighbourhoods. The track record of CPCG in this area was evident from the contributions as were the new opportunities and challenges which the new environment creates for us.

CPCG has joined the Reference Group which will take this work forward.

Safer Lambeth Board

Lee Jasper and Jim Toohill attended the May meeting of the Safer Lambeth Partnership (the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) to present further proposals of how CPCG could provide engagement opportunities for the partnership and to seek financial support. Copies of the paper presented are available from the Group Office or for download on the website.

The Partnership Board supported the proposal in principle subject to the MPA confirming funding for the remainder of the current financial year (the MPA had only committed the first quarters funding, subject to support from Safer Lambeth).

London CPCG Chairs Forum

Paul Andell attended the May meeting of this forum, which met with DAC Brian Paddick. The main issues of debate were Stop and Search and the roll-out of local monitoring, London wide (broadly modelled on the Lambeth model).

MPA Vacancy

There is a vacancy for an Independent Member of the Authority. Details can be obtained from the Group Office or downloaded from the MPA website at www.mpa.gov.uk. Members are expected to devote 2 days a week, on average, to MPA business and can claim an allowance of approximately £15k pa. The closing date for applications is 30 June.

Board Planning Day

CPCG's Board spent Saturday 20th May engaged in a facilitated workshop to address strategic planning issues. Chris Lee (LBL) attended as a Board member whilst Chief Supt Martin Bridger came in place of Supt Paul Wilson (also a Board member) who was out of the country.

The day focussed on CPCG's role in the rapidly changing environment and identified core purposes as well as key challenges and opportunities. A follow up will seek to establish concrete actions to address these. The aim is for the Board to present the membership with coherent proposals for our development ahead of next years planning round, which starts in the autumn.

Home Office Hate Crime Seminar

This was attended on 1st June by Wesley Walters-Stephenson. Contact Wes for details.

No Deal in Brixton

The project planning group (which includes the police, LBL Community Safety, the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team together with community representation, including CPCG) continues to meet monthly. Monitoring reports have now become extensive (copies can be made available from the Group office) but in summary key issues have been:

- A fall in Stop and Search arrest rates in April which have recovered in May;
- Delays in bringing charged individuals to trial and sanctions delivered by the Courts;
- The place of No Deal within overall drugs strategy for the Borough, and the impact of the Fridge raid on perceptions;
- Responses of the public to police interventions where those in possession of drugs seek to hide them in their mouths.
- Concerns over changes to manning levels in the Town Centre Policing Team.

Strategies have been put in place to address these issues, including restoration of numbers to the Town Centre Team. Community feedback continues to indicate that whilst the situation is much improved on the prior position, the early gains have been

'banked' and people are now looking to see further improvements which the accept will be harder to achieve.

In this context, a report by the Commissioner to the April meeting of the MPA's Planning, Performance and Review Committee ('MPS Position on Drugs' – covered in our May briefing) raised our hopes, citing an initiative called 'Street Level Up', which sought to coordinate local action with drug dealing with enforcement against middle market and importing activities.

The report stated that six more areas were being sought to implement this scheme. Attempts to include the No Deal area in this initiative have brought the response that 'there are no funds available'. This is a disappointing response and something that we shall seek to pursue with other community organisations.

Policing Plan 2006/7 -Summary

Copies of this summary are available at:

<http://www.met.police.uk/foi/boroughs/lambeth.htm> or from the Group office.

MPS Briefing in respect of Forrest Gate Counter Terrorist Raid

The following has been released by the MPS today (June 6).

Briefing Note to Community Partners

The following briefing is to inform police community partners about the counter-terrorist raid that took place on Friday 2nd June. The briefing is issued in response to advice received from a number of bodies, including the Community Consultation Group that is assisting the police service to deal with possible consequences of the operation.

Briefing

Friday's operation was conducted in response to very specific and new intelligence. The intelligence required the police service to respond – doing nothing with intelligence of this nature is simply not an option.

It is imperative that we prove or disprove this intelligence. All of our activity in connection with this operation is undertaken with this objective.

The operation at the premises continues and is likely to take several days to complete because of its thorough nature. We have removed material and property, including computers, for examination and investigation.

There is, of course, much other investigative activity and partners should not assume that the result of the search is the only factor bearing on the resolution of this matter.

Prior to undertaking the operation a careful planning process took place, including risk assessment and community impact assessment – these are vital parts of an operation of this sort. This type of planning is followed for all major police operations.

Highly trained, highly skilled firearms officers entered both premises. A larger number of unarmed officers in uniform secured cordons in the area. Their role was to ensure public safety, manage road closures and give advice and guidance to the public who may have been upset or disturbed by the operation.

It was necessary to evacuate a small number of residents for safety reasons.

Memories of an anti-terrorism search that had a tragic outcome are still strong – safety of the public and our officers is a priority.

The shooting that took place is, of course a cause of concern to us and we are supporting the IPCC investigation to establish what happened. This investigation is independent of the police and will establish the facts.

There has been speculation that the IPCC investigation held up the counter-terrorist investigation. This is not the case.

As it is not our investigation, we cannot comment further about the shooting.

This case highlights the dilemma facing the police service. We have an absolute duty to protect public safety and to prove or disprove intelligence received.

We are obliged to protect the public from the risk of terrorism. We are constantly making decisions on intelligence and public safety is always our primary concern.

If, in the future, we receive intelligence suggesting a danger to the public, we will take steps to ensure public safety.

The Metropolitan Police are working very closely with the local community in Newham to minimise disruption and ensure the community is kept informed and any concerns they may have are addressed.

Safer Neighbourhood teams have been doing extra reassurance patrols in the area and at key community locations in the borough. Regular meetings are being held with community representatives both locally, pan London and nationally. This is being complemented with regular community bulletins where any updated information is distributed to interested community members.

Leaflets have been distributed in the Newham area to explain the police operation and to publicise a Metropolitan Police community hotline. Anyone who would like to report any community concerns can contact the hotline at anytime on:

Telephone 0800 0282390

Minicom 0800 0286552

Web www.met.police.uk/dcf