

Future Meetings Programme

January 9th 2007: 6:00 pm at the **Karibu Centre**, 7 Gresham Road, SW9 7PH

'Drugs in Lambeth'

Nationally, over half of all acquisitive crime is estimated to be drugs related. What is the strategy in Lambeth and what are its priorities? How sustainable is it? How is the balance struck between enforcement and treatment? How well are local initiatives integrated with wider scale activity directed at drugs supply chains? These are some of the issues we hope to address. The Metropolitan Police Authority is currently undertaking a Scrutiny into Drugs Policing (details at <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/cop/2006/060901/10.htm>) and the Scrutiny Panel has indicated that some of its members will join us for the event.

Nearest Tube: Brixton,

6 February: 6:30 pm at **South London Liberal Synagogue**, Prentis Road, Streatham SW16 1QR

'Mental Health and Police Custody: How Effective is Interagency Working'

'Lesbian Gay Transgender Bisexual (LGBT) Issues in Community Safety' - as part of LGBT History Month

Buses: 255 from Clapham, 118, 333 or 133 from Brixton, 255 from Stockwell, 133 or 333 from Kennington, tube to Brixton from Vauxhall, 176 then 113 or 333 from Waterloo (via Elephant), 315 from West Norwood

6 March: 6:00 pm at the **Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall**, Brixton Hill SW2 1RW

'Fear of Crime'

In some parts of our community, the unjustified fear of crime is more damaging than crime itself, whilst in others fear is justified and amplifies the debility which crime engenders. This session will attempt to discern what it is that people fear, how justified are their fears and what are the drivers of fear, distinguishing the extent to which these aspects differ on the basis of location, ethnicity, gender, age etc. We shall seek contributions from the police, the LA, the media and voluntary agencies.

Nearest Tube: Brixton

Section 17 Training

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) requires local authorities and the police to consider the community safety implications of all their activities¹. It cuts across all departments of the local authority and has onerous responsibilities including the possibility of legal action if the authority is demonstrably deficient. As such it is a potentially important tool in community accountability and scrutiny.

Lambeth Borough Council has engaged Perpetuity Consultants to help train staff in the application of s17 and to develop a strategy and has kindly extended an offer to include community members in the training. There will be a session for community individuals and organisations to be held at 6:30 pm at the Karibu Centre, 7 Gresham Road, SW9 7PH on Thursday January 25th. If you would like to attend, please contact the Group Office (020 7733 0878 or admin@lambethcpcg.org.uk). Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Incident in Tulse Hill

On Friday 24th November a young man sustained serious injuries, apparently self inflicted, following an eviction from a council flat in Tulse Hill. The police had been called to the eviction, which was carried out by bailiffs on behalf of Lambeth Borough Council. The MPS Professional Standards Directorate is carrying out an investigation and an internal investigation within Lambeth Borough Council has been initiated, led by Chris Lee (Executive Director, Regeneration).

A community meeting was called by Kathy While (Tulse Hill TRA and CPCG member) which was also attended by CPCG Board members Wesley Walters Stephenson and Paul Reynolds.

CPCG has written to Borough Commander Martin Bridger and Chris Lee setting out what we believe should be key issues in the investigations and requesting that the results of both should be shared with the community and that there should be clear demonstration of lessons learned.

Additional resources for Brixton over Christmas.

In support of the No Deal operation, and to address street crime and anti-social behaviour in the commercial centre generally, the police will be augmenting resources through December and into January. Over the period there will be approximately double the manpower deployed, together with a contingent of Lambeth Borough Wardens. The additional officers will be working under close supervision of the existing Town Centre Team.

¹ There is a useful briefing, written by NACRO for the Local Government Association at <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publicprotection/crime.pdf>. Hard copies are obtainable from the office.

British Transport Police and CPCG

Chair Anna Tapsell and Gill Kenealy have met with Chief Superintendent Paul Crowther of British Transport Police where it was agreed that BTP should be represented at CPCG meetings at a more senior level. It was also agreed that BTP would provide statistical reports of crime on transport systems in the borough, on a regular basis.

Launch of the Gaia Centre

The Gaia Centre (which provides support for victims of domestic violence) was formally launched on Tuesday, 28 November, at the YMCA, Stockwell which Anna Tapsell, Gill Keneally and Ben Mckendrick.

Passing Out Ceremony

CPCG Chair Anna Tapsell attended a passing out ceremony at Hendon on Friday 1 December and took the opportunity to meet many of the new police officers who will be deployed to Lambeth.

Funding and Finance

The MPA funding application process is underway, initiated on 10 November with a deadline of 21 December. The CPCG November Board agreed an Action Plan, the key elements of which are:

- Continuing programme of monthly meetings, with two devoted to the Safer Lambeth Partnership. Geographic rotation;
- Safer Neighbourhood Conference;
- A forum within CPCG for Youth Issues;
- Training programme and materials for community members involved in direct engagement with the police eg critical incident groups;
- The potential to develop the Stop and Search monitoring model to address Domestic Violence and People with Mental Health Problems in Police Custody;
- A coherent communications strategy and programme that spans CPCG and Safer Neighbourhoods;
- An outreach programme to broaden and increase CPCG membership

This year's application pack has the novel requirement of a supporting sign-off by the Borough Commander, the MPA link member and the Asst Director (Community

Safety) from the borough. The CPCG Board take the view that in different circumstances this could jeopardise CPCG's independence, particularly from local political pressures – something which the MPA sought to maintain in the 'Option 1/ Option 2' debate in 2005. This is something about which we shall make representations to the MPA later in the year.

In terms of funding for the year ahead, CPCG has absorbed a funding reduction of a third over the past three years, in spite of a doubling in office rent. The application reflects this.

CPCGs' current financial position (as at the November Board meeting) is set out below:

	To 21 Nov 2006	Forecast 2006/7
Opening Funds	£13,931	£13,931
Staff Costs	£20,660	£35,417
Office Accommodation and Services	£6,670	£10,656
Events	£1,493	£2,173
Communications	£993	£2,593
Professional Services	£353	£6,003
New Developments		£5,500
Total Costs	£30,168	£62,341
Income: MPA	£48,125	£50,000
Income: Other	£35	£175
Income: Safer Lambeth Partnership		£5,000
Total Income	£48,160	£55,175
Closing Funds	£31,923	£6,764