

Future Meetings

- 4 December St Leonard's Church, Streatham
Theme: Policing Style and Critical Encounters (will include an MPS presentation on Tasers)
- 8 January Room 8, Lambeth Town Hall
Theme: Domestic Violence Research Project
- 5 February West Indian Ex-Servicemen/Ex- Servicewomen's Association
Clapham

Brixton Town Centre Forum, Tues 20th Nov 2007 at the Karibu Centre

This meeting will focus on crime and community safety in Brixton Town Centre and will include a first year report from Brixton Town Centre Safer Neighbourhood Panel together with elections for a new Panel.

MPS Health and Safety Trial

As we await the IPCC's Stockwell 1 report and the start of the inquest into the death of Jean Charles de Menezes, several issues are emerging to which the Board of CPCG have given consideration.

Our considerations are based upon working alongside the Latin Front, listening to the views of Lambeth communities and maintaining a dialogue with the IPCC, whose Chair Nick Hardwick has kept faith with Lambeth, attending CPCG public meetings on four occasions since 2005. We have also maintained close contact with the MPS, over this case, both at borough level and at New Scotland Yard.

Stockwell 1 has yet to be published and we are still studying the judge's summing up and sentencing comments, but CPCG's Board feels that already three issues are clearly key at this stage:

1. Whatever else is to emerge through the Stockwell 1 Report and the Inquest, it is now clear that a **catalogue of failures by the MPS** resulted in an innocent man being shot dead. Whilst the whereabouts of the actual suspect is not yet clear, there is no doubt that the people of Lambeth were left unprotected from what the MPS thought to be a terrorist threat on that morning and the number and extent of these failures does suggest to us a systemic problem which needs now to be addressed.

- 2. The need to rebuild public confidence.** Londoners need to be convinced that the MPS and the MPA are as shocked as we are by what these reports have revealed and that they have the capacity to rectify these deficiencies and restore our confidence. Regrettably, in spite of his many contributions to policing in the capital, we do not feel that Sir Ian Blair is now the best person to lead this process.

The picture painted by the IPCC's Stockwell 2 report was of a senior command structure in disarray with senior officers feeling little compunction to keep the Commissioner informed of the emerging tragedy for an individual and his family and also for the standing of the MPS with Londoners. Meanwhile, the MPS (under Sir Ian's leadership) continued to smear Jean Charles de Menezes' character and reputation up to and during the court case.

Sir Ian's response to the Health and Safety verdict and the judge's comments was peremptory, pugnacious and disingenuous; he appeared to view the trial's outcome as a vindication rather than a reprimand.

Londoners will find it hard to believe that Sir Ian has really learned the lessons from Stockwell or is in a position to drive through the operational and management changes now required.

- 3. The impact, on police operations, of the successful prosecution under Health and Safety legislation.** We are unconvinced that this will be as damaging as had been suggested by the MPS and others but accept the need to systematically review the consequences of the verdict including, if necessary, the need for an explicit legal framework for the corporate accountability of police forces.

Meanwhile, we are confident that our local police will continue to successfully protect the people of Lambeth with our support and consent.

Over the coming weeks we shall continue to canvass, and represent, the views of our communities in Lambeth, as more information emerges.

Tasers

At their full Authority meeting on 25 October, the MPA declined for a second time to sanction extension to the use of Tasers by the MPS.

MPA Youth Scrutiny

The MPA is proposing to undertake a Youth Scrutiny whose focus will be the causes, effects and impacts of young people's involvement in crime as victims, witnesses and perpetrators and how this influences their interactions and relationships with the MPS. The Terms of Reference for this scrutiny are still being agreed. CPCG will endeavour to ensure that Lambeth Youth have every opportunity to be involved. Please contact the group office if you wish to contribute.

Meetings Attended

Since the last CPCG meeting, CPCG Board members have attended a number of meetings on the Group's behalf.

For Anna Tapsell this included: attendance at Lambeth Domestic Violence (DV) Forum (3 Oct.) and a meeting with Laura Rawnsley and Borough Commander Sharon Rowe about the CPCG DV Research Project (5 Oct.); chairing a meeting of Brixton Town Centre Forum (9 Oct.); attending Brixton Safer Neighbourhood Panel on the Council's Drug Dependency Strategy (11 Oct.); attending Princes Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel (18 Oct.); attending two Communities Together meetings at New Scotland Yard (28 Sept and 5 Nov.); visiting Fairbridge Youth Project (23 Oct.); attending Gold Group on the shooting of two men in Streatham (30 Oct.); attending public meeting at St.Leonard's, Streatham, on the same shootings and police reassurance (2 Nov.); New Scotland Yard meeting on strategy for Independent Advisory Groups (5 Nov.).

On 22 October, Gill Kenealy met with Hannah Barker from Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum to discuss distribution of fliers for a youth event being organised by them. This well attended event, to which Canon Ivelaw Bowman escorted a group of young people, took place on 30 October at Stockwell Community Resource Centre.

The Stop and Search Monitoring Group last met on 11 October. On 30 October, Gill and Paul Andell met with Nacro regarding a schools stop and search resource pack. This was followed with a meeting on the subject with Lambeth Live magazine on 5 November.

On 10 and 17 October, Ivelaw and Wesley Stephenson attended Lambeth Council's Executive Commission on Gangs, Guns and Knives. Wesley also accompanied Anna at the Independent Police Complaints Committee to discuss the shooting dead of two Lambeth residents by police during an attempted robbery in Hampshire.

On 2 November, Paul Reynolds attended a briefing on the policing of the Lambeth Fireworks displays at Brockwell Park, Clapham Common and Streatham Common. The event at Clapham was reckoned to be one of the largest in the country. During the briefing a call came in about a fire at the rear of the Texaco petrol station in the middle of West Norwood, which led to the evacuation of York Hill is to be evacuated and the closure of Norwood Road between Tulse Hill and Norwood cemetery.

Jim Toohill and Ivelaw Bowman attended a meeting of Brixton Town Centre Safer Neighbourhood Panel on 16 October and Jim chaired a meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Panel Development Group on 1 October. On 2 November, Jim contributed to a discussion on the BBC Five Live Breakfast Programme of the outcome of the Stockwell Health and Safety Trial and also contributed to a BBC Sheffield piece on the same subject. Jim attended a Communities Together meeting at New Scotland Yard (in respect of the Stockwell trial) on 18 October.

If you would like to know more about any of these meetings please contact the individuals concerned through the Group office.

Drugs Deterrent Policy

On 9 October, CPCG facilitated a meeting to discuss Lambeth Council's Drug Deterrent Policy. The policy involves using Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) against people selling and buying drugs in the borough, particularly, though not exclusively, in Brixton, by putting a restriction, as a condition of an ASBO, on a person's movements eg banning a person from Brixton Town Centre. The policy also considers the naming and shaming of those involved in drug dealing.

CPCG – AGM

On 23 October, CPCG held its AGM at the Stockwell Community Resource Centre. At the meeting the membership approved CPCG Annual Report and Annual Accounts.

In respect of elections, as the nominations for CPCG Board did not exceed the number of places available, the membership accepted Paul Andell, Ivelaw Bowman, Anna Tapsell and Jim Toohill, all of whom had stood down, as Individual Board members. Wesley Stephenson (West Indian Ex-Servicemen's and Servicewomen's Association), who had also stood down, and Jane Warwick (Lambeth Independent Appropriate Adults Scheme) were accepted as Community and Voluntary (C&V) Board members. Doye Akinlade (C&V), Shane Collins (Ind.), Gill Kenealy (Ind.) and Paul Reynolds (C&V) were not required to stand for election and remain on CPCG Board.

Membership

Please note, Lambeth CPCG has an open membership to anyone who lives, studies or works in the Borough of Lambeth. It is also free to join. If you would like an application form to become either an Individual Member or to affiliate your organisation, please contact the CPCG administrator, Ben McKendrick, at Unit 58, Eurolink Business Centre, 49 Effra Road, Brixton SW2 1BZ. Telephone 020 7733 0878. E-mail admin@lambethcpcg.org.uk or approach Ben at CPCG meeting.