

Future Meetings

1 December 6:00 p.m.

Theme:

Venue: Stockwell Community Resource Centre,
Studley Road SW4

To be confirmed

5 January 2010 6.00 p.m.

Theme

Venue: Karibu Education Centre,
7 Gresham Road, Brixton SW2

To be confirmed

CPCG AGM 20 October 2009

On Tuesday, 20 October 2009, CPCG held its Annual General Meeting at the Stockwell Community Resource Centre.

Paul Andell, Anna Tapsell and Jim Toohill (Individual Members), and Wesley Walters-Stephenson and Jane Warwick (Community and Voluntary Members) had stood down as Board Members as their term of office had expired. However, all had stood again for re-election and, in light of there being no other nominations for the Board, CPCG membership agreed for them to serve another period in office.

CPCG agreed that, for continuity, prospective candidates for election to the Board at the AGM 2010 should work more closely with the present Board in order to gain experience about how the Board worked and what was expected of Board Members.

At the AGM, the CPCG agreed its Annual Report and Annual Accounts 2008-9.

CPCG Update on CO19 routine patrols in Lambeth – Anna Tapsell, CPCG Chair

Below you will find my letter to Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave, our borough commander, and statements to bring you up to date with the current position following the announcement just over a week ago about CO19 Firearms Units undertaking routine armed patrols. These are:

1) News announcement by MPS CO19 on BBC TV - 22 October

On 22 October, a CO19 officer appears on BBC TV London Regional News to announce that from henceforth CO19 will be patrolling on estates where there is gang activity. This, he said, was following a pilot in Tottenham and Brixton.

2) Anna Tapsell writes to Borough Commander, Ch. Supt. Ephgrave - 23 October

"Yesterday I met with Insp. Tracey Stephenson and two TSG officers discussing how they might more sensitively carry out their duties and why it was that local people seemed to resent them. I got home and turned on the BBC News to learn that we already had CO19 patrolling our estates in Brixton, it being categorised yet again as a Met "hotspot".

At our October public Group Meeting, you, together with Commander Zinzan, gave us an excellent presentation on visiting units and what they were for and how they worked with you and your SMT. You reiterated your commitment to working with the community and policing

by consent. I am frankly appalled by the idea of armed guards on our estates. It sends absolutely the wrong message to our young people and will inevitably end in tragedy. I listened to the Inspector from CO19 on the News saying how robust they were going to be with the gangs and my blood ran cold. These gangs are our kids.

We are due to meet next week, but in the meantime may I request that you and Commander Zinzan meet with my Board and other community representatives early next week?"

3) Jenny Jones, elected member of the Metropolitan Police Authority is interviewed that day and the following morning and states:

"This is a totally unacceptable departure from normal policing tactics. "I can't believe that the sight of a policeman with a machine gun will make people feel safer. "Are we heading down a slippery slope towards armed rather than community policing?"

"I hope the Met will rethink this terrible decision immediately and think of a genuinely proactive way to prevent gun crime."

4) CPCG issues Press Release – 23 October

SHOCK AT ARMED POLICE PATROLS IN LAMBETH

Lambeth's Community-Police Consultative Group reacted with alarm to proposals for armed police to become a regular feature on Lambeth's streets. Chair Anna Tapsell said "Of course we must all be concerned about the levels of gun crime in our borough and across London generally and support initiatives which have a demonstrable chance of tackling the menace. But, given the nature of these shootings, it is hard to see how the presence of some armed police on the streets will achieve that. Meanwhile, we expect such a presence will only move us further away from the sort of community policing which people in the borough have been working for over the past 25 years and heightens the risk of tragic, unintended consequences"

She went on 'It is of particular concern that the first the people of Lambeth heard of this was when we picked it up on the newswires earlier today and then subsequently on the broadcast news. From reports, it appears that even the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Mayor of London had been kept in the dark over this"

CPCG is urgently seeking a justification of the tactic from the borough commander Chief Supt Nick Ephgrave as well as an explanation of why he chose not to raise the issue at the Group's last public meeting with him and his superior, Commander David Zinzan, at the West Norwood Old Library just two weeks ago. Ms Tapsell added "We will also be asking our local democratic representatives and the Safer Lambeth Partnership if they were also left unaware of these developments".

5) Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave makes a statement - 23 October

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you all in response to the press and radio interest in the alleged plans for firearms officers from CO19 to patrol in town centres and local estates. The same story has been reported in various versions, and some articles have named Brixton as a venue for such patrolling.

In summary,

(a) I have made extensive enquiries this morning with CO19 and senior officers at New Scotland Yard and have been reassured that there are no plans for armed officers to routinely patrol our town centres or estates. The press reporting is entirely inaccurate in this respect.

(b) CO19 officers are deployed on Lambeth Borough in support of my officers as and when there is a requirement for armed support for a specific operation and I or my senior team request such support. This has always been the case and no doubt I will continue to request armed support as and when necessary, as is the practice across all London Boroughs.

(c) From what I know at the moment, the press appear to have misinterpreted a news update from CO19 on the MPS intranet site, describing a tactical option that has been used for some time by CO19 whereby CO19 armed officers are deployed in support of Borough officers on specific, intelligence led operations targeting weapons recovery. This is one of a series of tactical options that were developed in response to serious violence involving firearms. One of the examples quoted in the CO19 news update related to a successful search in Brixton that led to the recovery of two rifles. We have deployed CO19 officers on Lambeth Borough on such operations since October 2008, with good success in terms of weapon and ammunition recovered. The tactic is NOT a routine tactic, but only used in response to specific intelligence.

(d) The news update from CO19 was posted on 22/10/09.

I understand the upset and concern that this media story has generated but hope that this message has gone some way to reassure you.

6) Lambeth Council Cabinet and Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) meetings 26 and 27 October

Cabinet congratulated the Borough Commander for listening to community concerns around armed policing and resolving this issue promptly.

Cabinet noted that media reports emanated from the MPS centrally and that public announcements were made without any consultation with the members of the Safer Lambeth Partnership. Cabinet recognised the solid record of community consultation undertaken by Lambeth MPS in partnership with Lambeth Council and the Community Police Consultative Group, and therefore deplored the way in which this apparently misreported issue was allowed to gain credence by the MPS centrally.

Cabinet recorded its strong opposition to any routine deployment of armed police in Brixton as it was reported by the media and condemned the negative depiction of Brixton in certain news reports, which chose to demonise Brixton's Moorlands Estate.

Cabinet called upon the Mayor of London and his deputy, Kit Malthouse, to consult widely with the Lambeth community before proposing any future alterations to Lambeth's approach to policing.

Cabinet also urged the Safer Lambeth Partnership to continue to take the effective multi-agency approach which has been successful in tackling crime in this borough, and to continue its efforts in community consultation.

7) MPS Commissioner, Sir Paul Stephenson makes a statement – 27 October

"I wish to be clear: there have not been any routine armed foot patrols, and nor will there be any.

"Fewer than ten intelligence-led specific operations have been undertaken by C019 which involved providing back up to neighbourhood teams. These were pre-planned operations, with specific objectives and timescales and were by no means routine in any way.

"This tactic was put together by officers for the best of reasons, to support and protect the local community and local unarmed officers. However, I believe that unfortunately there has been a failure to appreciate that this could look like a significant change of policing style. The way in which we have communicated this has led to the mistaken impression that we have created regular armed uniform foot patrols. That is not the case and it is not going to happen. I am very proud of the unarmed civilian service tradition of the Metropolitan Police Service and am determined to uphold it. When this apparent foot patrolling extension of existing tactics came to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner on Thursday he immediately instructed that this was not an option."

"Although we have seen a recent increase in gun crime, it remains lower than it was two years ago. Firearms officers will however continue to be deployed in situations where firearms present a threat and in support of their unarmed colleagues as has always been the case. If in the future it becomes necessary to extend uniformed armed deployments I will of course ensure full and robust consultation with the police authority and the wider community prior to implementation."

Consultation: Policing London Business Plan

This year's public consultation to inform the **Policing London** Business Plan has now started. The questionnaire is available online at www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/policingplans

Respondents can also request a paper copy (in a variety of font sizes) or a telephone questionnaire by calling 020 7202 0063 or 020 7202 0173 (minicom) and leaving their name and contact details. The consultation closes on **30th November 2009**. The Metropolitan Police Authority want to have as broad a range of respondents and therefore wants the views of as many people as possible.

Lambeth Council's first Single Equalities Scheme - Paula Williams, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities and Diversity Unit

We would like to invite you to participate in the development of Lambeth Council's first Single Equalities Scheme. Your contribution and involvement is very important to us and will help to shape the scheme by ensuring we are working and delivering on your behalf.

What is an Equalities Scheme?

An Equalities Scheme is a document that includes a commitment from us, and a three year plan. It sets out how we as an organisation intend to meet our responsibility to:

- Advance equality of opportunity for all
- Eliminate and challenge discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Promote good relations within and across groups, and
- Work to actively and meaningfully involve specific groups, in particular disabled communities, in its development.

A **Single Equalities Scheme** means that we are committed to ensuring the same considerations and protections to a wide group of persons based on their race, class, disability, sexual orientation, faith religion and belief and gender identity.

It will not be possible to respond to everything or take all suggestions forward but we want to focus on those areas that are identified as most important to either you personally or your clients if you are representing specific interests.

About the consultation

We have produced a Survey and ask your opinion on how we might improve the priorities suggested. If you would like to take part in the **Single Equalities Scheme Survey**, please click on the link http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/surveys/oc/ses_consultation.htm and be sure to **SUBMIT** your response before exiting.

If you would like to receive a **printed copy of the survey**, please contact Paula Williams at the address below.

We would also like to hold some **focus groups** with residents and community groups to discuss issues that affect them. If you would like to part in the **focus group** please email equalities@lambeth.gov.uk or Paula Williams at pwilliams3@lambeth.gov.uk

What happens next?

We will be consulting with a range of individuals including residents, community groups, service users and staff between the period of August and November 2009. Once we have collected all the information, we will begin to develop an **action plan** which we will publish and invite you to comment on at a **Community Event** in **January 2010** where you will share perspectives and hear some feedback on what we are doing with what you told us and how it will make a difference. We will then finalise and publish the **final Single Equalities Scheme** in **April 2010**.

Many thanks in advance for your time - I look forward to hearing from you.

Paula Williams
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Swine Flu

Mindful of the expected resurgence of Swine Flu over the coming months, and to do our bit to help reduce the spread of the virus, CPCG would ask you not to attend our public meetings if you have flu symptoms.

Meetings and events attended during October/November 2009

30 October	Jane Warwick and Ben McKendrick attended a Recruits Market at Gipsy Hill Police Station for new police recruits to the borough.
29 October	Anna Tapsell and Gill Kenealy met with Community Safety partners to discuss Sexual Violence to Women for CPCG November meeting.
28 October	Anna Tapsell met Borough Commander, Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave.
27 October	Anna Tapsell attended the meeting of the Safer Lambeth Partnership.
26 October	Anna Tapsell attended a Gold Group in relation to the murder of two men at an address in Gipsy Hill on 20 October.
21 October	Anna Tapsell met with MPS Directorate of Professional Standards and TSG officers to discuss improving community engagement.
19 October	Anna Tapsell attended a meeting of the Mental Health and Community Safety Working Group.
13 October	Anna Tapsell and Gill Kenealy met with Community Safety partners to discuss Sexual Violence to Women for CPCG November meeting.

Join our Group... Have Your Shout

If you wish to become a member of CPCG, either as an individual or representing an organisation or group in the Community and Voluntary sector, please contact CPCG (see contact details below) and we will send you a Membership Pack.

Important contacts**Non emergencies, advice or comments****Tel: 0300 123 1212****In confidence (anonymously) with information about a crime****Tel: 0800 555 111****Crimestoppers****Emergencies, if a crime is happening now or there is immediate danger Tel: 999****Lambeth Community-Police Consultative Group**

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