

Future Meetings

7 September 2010
Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall

5 October 2010
Old Library, West Norwood

19 October AGM

2 November 2010
Assembly Hall, Town Hall

7 December 2010 Venue TBC

Lambeth CPCG - 'Best Practice'

It's sometimes helpful to see ourselves as others see us. This from an (unrestricted) MPS Westminster report reviewing consultation arrangements in Westminster.

Best Practice

A comparison with Lambeth Borough and its CPEG highlighted that Lambeth has a far more strategically focussed meeting with a greater input from a more diverse group of people and organisations. Also, Pan-London MPS teams are regular attendees – the Territorial Support Group (TSG) and Firearms OCU (CO19) attend their meetings and give regular updates to the public on their operations held in their borough.

Whose Shout?

The report of Catriona Robertson's research into community engagement around policing and community safety in the borough has now been published and has attracted wide interest, within the borough and from across London. Over 150 hard copies have been distributed and around 300 downloaded from the website.

(<http://www.downloads.lambethcpcg.org.uk/WhoseShout/Whose%20Shout.pdf>)

We have decided to allow the summer 'recess' for full discussion and consideration, especially by community groups who only meet intermittently (such as Safer Neighbourhood Panels). Equally, the Safer Lambeth Partnership have indicated that they would like the report to be considered by their Reassurance Priority Action Group, which next meets in September.

It is our aim to bring together key players in the borough in October to put together an Action Plan to take the issues raised forward.

DNA Database – Civil Liberties Panel

On 1 July the MPA's Civil Liberties Panel (a panel of six MPA members) held an open public meeting to hear views around their current issue of focus – the DNA database. Whilst a number of CPCG members have an interest in the issue, the meeting was held during the working day which has problems for attendance.

A webcast of the meeting is available <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/clp/2010/100701/webcast-archive/> and it raises a number of important points and issues.

The panel is carrying on its investigation over the year and is still keen to hear views. We are proposing, if there is sufficient interest, to convene a small group over the summer to view the webcast and use that as the basis to pull together a written submission to the Panel.

If you are interested, please contact the office.

Governance of Policing in London – the Shape of Things to Come

The precise form for implementing manifesto proposals for the governance of policing in England and Wales, in respect of ‘elected commissioners’ in particular, are (we understand) still taking shape. But, from what is publicly available, for London ideas being floated appear to consist of a radical reshaping, if not effective disbandment, of the Metropolitan Police Authority, with a Transport for London style Executive Board Chaired by the Mayor (or his deputy) working with the Commissioner and his Management Board and with Non-Executive Board members appointed by the Mayor. Scrutiny of this Board and of policing would be handed to the Greater London Authority. Extracts below, from the transcript of the 27 May meeting of the MPA, provide some detail.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman): *Yes. Well, obviously as you will appreciate that that was the major part of the early discussions that we have had with ministers. The truth is, I think, for most of the country their plans are forming up. I do not think there is anything particularly definite in it, other than they want to strengthen and have a directly-elected and direct democratic link between people in an area and the police that serve them. In London we have submitted, prior to the election actually, some suggestions for structural change which are along the lines that you said. I think they were released during the election campaign as part of a general Mayoral power, sort of mini manifesto.*

What is unsure yet is how much of that is going to through on the coalition agreement, but my understanding from ministers is that they definitely want to strengthen the direct link between the Metropolitan Police Service and the Mayor and that they are interested in the notion of an appointed board with scrutiny going to the London Assembly. They see the sense of splitting out the executive and the scrutiny side of it but nothing is yet definite. The other thing that is not definite is into which bit of legislation any changes would fall because there is obviously a policing bill which will cover the rest of the country into which we could fall, but there is also a local government devolution bill that, I think, is coming onto the cards quite quickly that is about their localism agenda. It may be that they decide to put some measures in that around the Authority as well. I think one thing is for certain, that over the next 12 to 18 months there will be structural change in London. It is just not entirely clear yet what that is going to be.....

Kit Malthouse (Chairman): *Well, Clive [Lawton], if you were aware of the proposals that I have made, and made my view very clear right from the start, my view was that the MPA should move to full Mayoral appointment. That means it should be entirely independent members, non-executive directors - whatever they may be - people appointed from outside. Now, the Mayor may decide to put, or will certainly I hope have the right to put, elected people on there, borough leaders, London Assembly Members, whoever he may decide. It also allows him to go for a board that is much more skills based. In those circumstances*

independent members who do have particular skills that are of use to the organisation would obviously be useful. So, it is not actually a devaluation. If anything it is a strengthening because what I think it needs is a structure that can bring in much more varied and appropriate skills from outside, not saying that there are not skills around the table amongst Independents, but it tends to be a bit random at the moment in that you pick from a field that applies rather than being able to go out and look for the skills you want and recruit them.

Transcript: <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/downloads/committees/mpa/100527-transcript.pdf>

Webcast: <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/mpa/2010/100527/webcast-archive/>

We shall keep members informed of these developments as they progress.

Borough Policing - the shape of things to come.

CPCG Honorary Officers (usually Anna Tapsell but occasionally Jim Toohill or Sandra Moodie) attend bi-monthly meetings organised by London Community Police Partnership (LCP2 – an umbrella organisation for London wide CPCGs). Alternate meetings are styled ‘Meetings with the Commissioner’, albeit that the Commissioner rarely attends. At the last two such meetings the new Assistant Commissioner for Territorial Policing (with responsibility for borough policing), Ian McPherson, has outlined his ideas for improving effectiveness whilst seeking cost savings.

One such proposal is ‘brigading’ – essentially sharing ‘back-office’ functions across a number of boroughs.

A number of CPCGs continue to seek reassurance that this will in no way undermine local operational control and accountability and also that Safer Neighbourhood Teams will remain intact.

Brixton Splash!

Brixton Splash – a one day festival in Brixton Town Centre – will be going ahead again on the afternoon of 1 August. Further details are available at:

www.brixtonsplash.co.uk

MPA/GLA Crime and Safety Roadshows - last Call

These events will update you on the delivery of the GLA/MPA strategies and enable us to listen and learn from you so we can work better together. The roadshows are your opportunity to find out more about:

- Time for Action – the Mayor’s plan to tackle serious youth violence
- The Way Forward – the Mayor’s plan to tackle violence against women
- MetForward – the MPA’s three year strategic mission for the Met, supporting the MPA’s oversight and scrutiny functions for the MPS and ensuring that key priorities are delivered

There will be a question and answer session following the presentation hosted by Kit Malthouse with Assistant Commissioner Ian McPherson or Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lynne Owens.

The venue for the Roadshow covering Lambeth is:

South Central London: Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark

City Hall, Thursday 8 July, 8.00 – 9.30am

Booking appears to be online only at

<http://www.london.gov.uk/webform/glampa-crime-and-safety-roadshow-booking-form>

If you do not have access to the internet, contact the office and we will book for you.

Meetings Attended

2 July 2010	Canon Ivelaw Bowman attended a Gold Group in respect of the murder of Zac Olumegbon
28 June 2010	Anna Tapsell attended the Lambeth Criminal Justice Mental Health Board, whose final report will be presented to the Group in the autumn.
24 June 2010	Anna Tapsell attended a meeting of pan-London CPCG chairs with Asst Commissioner Ian McPherson
15 June 2010	Jim Toohill attended a Board meeting of LCP2, the London wide umbrella organisation for CPCGs
4 June 2010	Wesley Walters-Stephenson attended a meeting with Rev Mimi Asher and Lambeth Council officers with regard to accomodation on the Myatts Field estate.
2 June 2010	David Tomlinson attended an interactive conference with CO19, organised for London wide CPCGs

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

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