

Building Communities, Beating Crime.

In the November briefing we reported that we reported that:

- We had undertaken to work with the CDRP to establish how best the Partnership could be opened up to community engagement, following the Community Safety Forum initiative;
- We had had agreed to work with the Community Engagement Unit of the MPA to chart development paths for CPCG's in the modern policy environment.

These are closely related developments and share a common context in the White Paper: 'Building Communities Beating Crime. A better police service for the 21st century', published by the Home Office early in November,

The paper has 3 aims:

- A national roll out neighbourhood policing with an emphasis of improved police responsiveness and customer service.
- The further modernisation of the police workforce to ensure that the service is fully equipped and able to deliver these changes.
- The greater involvement of communities and citizens in determining how their communities are policed.

One of the major challenges presented by the White Paper is "how to pass power from the political centre to local citizens and communities". The paper suggests changes to the Crime and Disorder Act to ensure that local people set and monitor local targets for local policing and that there is more accountability of community safety partnerships. The Group Officers are working on a discussion paper with suggestions about how the CPCG will play its part with the new legislation. For further information contact Paul Andell via the group office.

Safer Neighbourhood Wards

Safer Neighbourhood Areas (generally electoral wards) have dedicated officers assigned to them and local consultation mechanisms addressing local community safety issues.

Additional Safer Neighbourhood wards for Lambeth have been announced. They are:

- Bishops
- Oval
- Herne Hill
- Ferndale
- Streatham Wells

joining Coldharbour, Vassal and Clapham Town to make 8 wards in all.

If you live in one the Safer Neighbourhood wards and would like to get involved in the initiative, then the contacts in the first instance are the respective Chief Inspectors.

CI Alistair Sutherland (Streatham)

CI Adrian Roberts (Ferndale, Coldharbour, Herne Hill)

CI Dave Musker (Clapham Town, Oval and Bishop's)

New Borough Commander

Following Dick Quinn's retirement in the new financial year, his replacement will be CS Martin Bridger, currently borough commander for Ealing. We look forward to welcoming Martin to a bigger and busier borough and to building on the productive working relationship we have had with Dick.

Funding Bid for 2005/6

The MPA process for applying next year's funding was set out in 'surgeries' held by the MPA in the first week in November. Funding applications have to be in by 17 December and have to include an Action Plan for the year ahead. The timing is somewhat accelerated compared with previous years and ahead of Lambeth CPCG's constitutional requirement, which is for an Action Plan to be presented to members in January each year. The compensation is that MPA undertake to have completed their appraisal process, and undertake any appeals, in time to award funding in the first week of April 2005.

The November Group Officer's meeting reviewed progress in developing options for the bid and agreed that, as promised, efforts should be made to provide opportunity for members to input into the process. It is therefore proposed that we have a workshop session on the morning of Saturday 11 December. Please let the office know, by 7 December, if you would like to attend that session.

Charitable Status

We reported in our November briefing that JT and BMcK had met with Roger Bronkhurst of Interchange Trust¹ to discuss Lambeth CPCG's registration as a limited company and as a charity. Roger subsequently wrote summarising his proposal. Key elements are:

- Roger will draft a Memorandum and Articles of Association, which will be the basis of both company registration and charity registration;
- These will be based on our current constitution plus the amendments proposed by the Scrutiny Committee and subsequently by Group Officers. The Memorandum and Articles are not in fact as detailed as the Constitution – they are more concerned with the structure of the charity and its purposes rather than how it achieves them. This is because these governing documents cannot subsequently be changed without the agreement of the Charity Commission. Quite separately, Roger will draft a set of Rules.
- Roger object will be to encapsulate what is contained within our Constitution (with amendments) but also to fashion what, in his judgement, is likely to be acceptable to the Charity Commission and make for an effective charity. This is likely to include (1) election of a Board, rather than specific officers (2) a slightly larger Board than the current set of Group Officers (3) an 'open' membership (4) charitable purposes based on outputs additional to forming a debating forum.
- A first draft of these documents will be presented for discussion with Group Officers and then in a members workshop, which Roger will attend. This is now likely to happen sometime in late January early February.

¹ Interchange is a charitable trust, based in Hampstead, which provides subsidised legal and employment advice to voluntary and community groups. Before joining Interchange, Roger Bronkhurst spent a number of years with Tottenham Law Centre and was a founder member of Haringey CCPG, so he is very familiar with the context. A Google search reveals that Interchange (and Roger) include the MPS amongst their clients, in respect of setting up The Safer London Foundation.

- Revised drafts will be presented to an EGM, say, a month later for approval.
- Assuming approval we should be able to apply for Company registration before the end of the financial year. That generally takes a matter of days to process. The registered company will then apply for charitable registration – that can take some small number of months.
- We shall be amongst the first CPCG's applying for charitable status so it is likely that the Commission will take a particular interest.

Interchange have quoted a VAT inclusive cost of approximately £1,000 with the possibility of higher costs if the Charity registration process becomes complicated.

Group Officers are recommending that the Group commission Interchange to draft the requisite documents with a view to registration.

Outreach and Networking.

- Jim Toohill and Ben McKendrick attended the Community Empowerment Network's (CEN) 'Big Listen' event in November and made useful contacts. CEN has been particularly helpful in providing leads into groups currently under-represented in CPCG and has also agreed to carry our materials in their mailouts.
- We anticipate that we shall develop a good working relationship with CEN and may at some point need to consider joining CEN – members' views would be welcome. It would also be sensible to consider joining Lambeth Voluntary Action Council (LVAC) – there are some very good practical reasons for doing so as well as the networking value.
- Gary Dando has proposed that CPCG join Lambeth Disability Advice Service (DASL).

Meetings Etc;

7 December	Paul Andell attends London-wide PCCG Forum meeting.
30 November	Jim Toohill, Cheryl Sealy and Ben McKendrick attended Crime and Disorder Audit meeting, Lambeth Town Hall
4 December	Jim Toohill and Cheryl Sealey observed Operation Hermes
3 December	Paul Andell observed Operation Hermes
26 November	Ivelaw attended Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust awayday
18 November	Ivelaw and Ben attended LCPT office to assist in shortlisting candidates for the Hate Crime Coordinator. Will also form part of the interview panel with Harriet Smith on 25 November.
16 November	Paul met with Mike Shiner LSE re stop and search
16 November	Ivelaw attended the Amardeep Organisation Eidmubarak and Diwali celebration, Effra Road daycentre
15 November	Jim and Paul attended SSMG meeting
12 November	Ivelaw attended the Caribbean Hindu Diwali Festival, Brixton Hill
11 November	Paul attended London-wide PCCG Forum meeting with MPS Commissioner
10 November	Jim and Ben met with Allan Hill LVAC/CEN to discuss membership, use of LVAC database and mail-out
9 November	Stop and Search Sub Group
8 November	Jim (evening) and Ben (afternoon) attended CEN "Big Listen"
7 November	Lloyd Leon appeared on Jonathan Dimbleby Sunday TV programme
4 November	Jim attended MPA funding surgery
3 November	Ben attended MPA funding surgery