

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
for LAMBETH**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1 NOVEMBER 2005

**LAMBETH ACCORD
336 BRIXTON ROAD SW9**

PRESENT: ACTING GROUP OFFICERS

Lee Jasper, Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Wesley Stephenson Jim Toohill **AFFILIATED MEMBERS** Nick Abengowe **Herne Hill Forum**; Doye Akinlade **Brixton Society**; Greta Brooks **Churches Together in Brixton**; Rod Brown **Lambeth Leaseholders Council**; Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler **Clapham Town N'hood Watch**; Stuart Horwood **Brixton Market Traders Assoc.**; Paul Reynolds **Herne Hill Society**; Abdul Sultan Virani **Lambeth Pensioners' Forum**; David Tomlinson **Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.**; Arulini Velmurugu **Lambeth Towers and Lambeth Road T&R Assoc.**; Dr Brian Mantell **Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women**; **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS** Lena James; Richard Moore; Cheryl Sealey, Fernando Senior; Anna Tapsell; Jane Warwick **PERMANENT MEMBERS** Lloyd Leon **Lambeth ICV**; Jean Carpenter, Amy Donovan, Marianna Tortell, Yvonne Okiyo **Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust**; Dave Ormison **Nacro SECTOR WORKING GROUPS** John Wainwright **Clapham**, George Tuson **LAMBETH COUNCIL** Chris Lee, Asst. Ch. Exec; Cllr. Robert S. McConnell; Cllr. Paul McGlone; Cllr. Peter O'Connell; Cllr. Angie Meader; Cllr. Darren Sanders; Supt. Andy Tarrant (acting Head of Community Safety); Rachel Gailey (Community Safety) **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Supt. Stewart Low (Brixton), Supt. Rick Algar (Streatham), Ch. Insp. Nigel Cook (Safer Neighbourhoods), PC Graham Allodus (LGBT Liaison Officer) Young Woman Who Does the Slides **SECRETARIAT** Ben McKendrick

Members of the Public who signed in: Hope Barrett; Mick Collins (Stockwell Project); Bron Davis (Trinity Gardens); John Franklands (Herne Hill Safer Neighbourhood); Valerie Ann Geen (Vauxhall Estate Assoc.) John Howard; Judith Hutchinson; Miriam Kelly; Teresa McCaffery; Wendy Miller; D. Nagam; Kevin Phillips (Lower Marsh); Mike Phillips (Goldsmiths College); Sheila Phillips (Bishops Safer Neighbourhood); Anne Sassoon Trinity Gardens); C. Tomiczek (Central Brixton);

Apologies: Pauline Bower; Ch. Supt. Martin Bridger; Shane Collins; David Corderoy; Gary Dando; Neil Flanigan; Cllr. Bernard Gentry; D.I. Dean Hayden; Marie Hennelly; Rachel Heywood; Kate Hoey MP; John Horrocks; Sue Jacobs; Gill Kenealy; John Podmore; Sally Rance; Insp. Tim Scott, Fernando Senior; PC Jack Wilson

Introduction

1. Lee Jasper informed the meeting that Borough Commander Martin Bridger would not be able to meeting

due to an important internal matter pertinent to Lambeth police

2. On behalf of the Group, Mr Jasper offered its best wishes for future to Supt. Andy Tarrant who was leaving Lambeth and taking up a post in Hackney.

Information from Acting Group Officers and Members

3. Mr Jasper referred members to the tabled November Briefing for information from Honorary Group Officers, particularly the information concerning the proposed drug treatment centre which was to be discussed later.

4. Jim Toohill pointed out that the Group had received agreement from the Home Office to include the word 'Police' in its company name, and that the Group would now be able to complete registration with Companies House.

Minutes of the Meeting 4 October 2005

5. Minutes of the Meeting 4 October were accepted with an amendment to include apologies from Dr Brian Mantell.

Matters Arising from the Minutes 4 October 2005

6. In response to John Howard, Lee Jasper reiterated Jim Toohill's explanation that the minutes of Group meetings were not *verbatim* and added that they had already been accepted.

7. In response to Lloyd Leon, Jim Toohill said that he represented the Group on the Independent Police Complaints Committee (IPCC)'s Community Reference Group [Min 36, 04/10/05]. Mr Toohill also restated that an Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) review of the Kratos policy was a separate inquiry, which he understood would have IPCC

and community input [Min 37, 04/10/05].

8. In answer to Arulini Velmurugu's contention that a searchable field existed for flagging up crimes against the disabled on police reports [Min 42, 04/10/05], Supt. Stewart Low said that it was correct to say that there was a flag code for identifying crimes, but with so many different flag codes available there was, potentially, a compliance issue about whether or not a particular box was filled in.

9. In order to pull particular information together, Mr Low said that the parameters of a search first needed to be established, although taking into consideration compliance issues a caveat had to be attached regarding the accuracy of the data retrieved.

10. In view of the lack of progress made in addressing Ms Velmurugu's longstanding concerns, Lee Jasper asked that Lambeth police and John Roberts (MPA) bring back a written report to the Group pinpointing the issues and challenges in relation to the recording of disability hate crime.

11. Jim Toohill said that the police response to Pauline Bower regarding the role of the Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) co-ordinator [Min 50, 04/10/05] had been that the post was a strategic rather than a 'public-facing' role. **However, Mr Toohill suggested that the Group should seek details of how, where and to whom to report incidents of ASB.**

12. In respect of CCTV issues [Min 54, 04/10/05], Richard Moore proposed that the Group should seek a report from the Council regarding its use of CCTV, including its functionality and use in areas such as parking and traffic control. Lloyd Leon

suggested that a restoration of the Council's accountability to the public regarding the use of CCTV was necessary and reminded the Group that it once had an independent CCTV Monitoring Group (CCTVMG).

13. Lee Jasper said that he would ask members to consider whether the Group should resurrect the CCTVMG, and those interested to contact the Group office. Furthermore, he said that the Group would make inquiries into the use of cameras for parking control.

14. John Howard asked the Group to seek assurance from the Borough Commander that Section 44 of the Terrorism Act would not be used against people in Lambeth. Furthermore, Mr Howard asked if the Group had yet formed a policy regarding the Kratos shoot to kill policy, which he understood could be extended to include suspects of other crimes, about which he sought a similar assurance.

15. In response, Lee Jasper said that the Kratos issue would be on the Group's agenda for some considerable time. Meanwhile, the Group already had input into the IPCC inquiry and would seek to play a role in debates conducted by the MPA and ACPO.

16. However, in respect of seeking of assurances that there would be no extension of Kratos policy in Lambeth, Mr Jasper said it was a complex question that needed a serious response, and he did not intend to put it a vote at present. Furthermore, Mr Jasper said that the IPCC would soon be reporting on the findings of its investigation and there would be a full discussion on all its aspects.

17. Jim Toohill said that the concerns about the Kratos policy, both terms of its design

and implementation, had been forcibly expressed to the IPCC in that the community expects its report to inform that debate. Mr Toohill added that with the Jean Charles de Menezes being the first real case in relation to Kratos it would be wise to wait for the IPCC report. In terms of extending Kratos policy to other situations, Mr Toohill agreed that it was a horrific suggestion but he did not believe that it was a firm proposal.

18. Anna Tapsell said that she was not happy that the MPS Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair was still appearing on TV talking about hypothetical cases and scenarios for the use of Kratos policy. She added that she felt uneasy about where further unknown about talks were taking place and feared a tacit extension of the policy without any debate.

19. In light of the Group's concerns, Mr Jasper proposed to write to the Commissioner on behalf of the Group and put the Group members' question to him. Mr Jasper asked Ms Tapsell and others to send their questions to the Group office.

20. In relation to police patrols in the Brixton Market area [Min 70-74, 04/10/05], Stuart Horwood suggested that there needed to be detailed discussion with regard to the significance of the displacement of drug dealers, its effects on residents, businesses, drug dealers and users, and whether or not displacement was a good or bad thing.

21. Mr Horwood pointed out that in ten years drug dealers had, by and large, moved ten minutes away from Railton Road to the centre of Brixton. He added that he sought the answer to whether displacement could be used as a reason for the success or failure of police policy.

Proposed Drug Treatment Centre – Brighton Terrace

22. Mr Jasper explained that the Proposed Drug Treatment Centre for Brighton Terrace had been placed on the Group's agenda as it had been raised as a matter of concern. However, he proposed that the Group work with local residents, Brixton Area Forum, MyBrixton.org and other stakeholders to organise a proper public debate other than the limited time available at the Group meeting.

23. Khadir Meer, Lambeth Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Communities Co-ordinator, gave an overview on the relocating of DAAT treatment services to Brixton.

24. Mr Meer said that Lambeth had the highest rate of problematic drugs users in London, and that Brixton wards had the highest rates in Lambeth. Further to this he said that a Brixton Area Forum residents survey in 2002 showed a majority of Brixton residents expressing a wish to have a drug treatment service in Brixton.

25. Mr Keer said the proposed service, to be based at the old Bess bakery site, would bring together the Stockwell Project, currently run from two council flats in Stockwell Gardens Estate, and clients from Marina House in Camberwell, Southwark. The site would also house various community based health teams and outreach services to provide a joined up approach to delivering drug services to clients with multiple needs; including substance misuse, mental health and other support issues.

26. However, Mr Meer refuted the notion that it would be one large, centralised service, but would allow for improved quality and quantity of drug and alcohol services, and coordination of

support from 37 GPs and 28 pharmacies.

27. Mr Meer said that those engaged in treatment were significantly less likely to commit crime, while the service would also help improve mental and physical health.

28. A search for site for the Drug Treatment Centre had begun following talks between South Lambeth and Maudsley Trust (SLAM) and the DAAT in 2001. A number of sites, which turned out to be inappropriate, had been looked at since then but only the old Bess Bakery, 14 Brighton Terrace, had been identified as suitable in 2004. Reasons for the choice included accessibility to clients and staff, and capacity.

29. Consultation with the Council about the site began in January, 2005, and with residents in March, who raised a number of community safety issues and fears. In response, Mr Meer said that it had been proposed that Brighton Terrace would receive dedicated wardens, improved street lighting, improved security on neighbouring estates and the establishing of a special advisory group.

30. Mr Meer said a planning application for Brighton Terrace was recommended, by Planning Officers, to Lambeth Council Planning Committee on 6 September 2005. However, the decision had been deferred to enable planning officers to bring together reasons for refusal. The next meeting of the Planning Committee would take place on 29 November.

31. In relation to Brighton Terrace, Cllr. Angie Meader informed the meeting that copies of the Council's Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee (HSSC) minutes of a special meeting held on 25 May 2005 were available to the public. The HSSC had resolved that the proposed location was in

the best interest of service users and an improvement to service provision with the proviso that the environmental considerations were adequately dealt with and a Project Advisory Group established with a strong and sustained initiative, providing immediate feedback to residents.

32. Cllr. Paul McGlone, Ferndale Ward, said that his general stance had always been in support of the argument for a treatment centre but it was where it was to be situated that was the issue. In this respect, Cllr McGlone said he would have expected the NHS and Council to have presented to residents the possibility of other sites and a demonstration of a similar centre in a residential setting at the epicentre of a serious drugs trade problem. However, he said that they had not been able to do so because it was a new, experimental kind of centre, and that their judgements were not based on clinical evidence.

33. Cllr. McGlone said that residents had real fears that the proposed drug treatment centre would exacerbate the situation rather than help solve it. Cllr. McGlone said that there were alternative sites that the Council could have chosen over the past few years such as the former Registrar's office, which had now been sold.

34. Cllr. Darren Sanders, Deputy Executive Member for Community Safety and Regeneration, stated that Brixton was an epicentre for drug dealing not only in Lambeth and London but also Britain. Medical evidence, he said, suggested that drug treatment centres near to where the problem occurred ensured that more drug users used services and drug problems decreased.

35. However, Cllr Sanders said that accepted that people living in Brighton Terrace had real fears, although he did not see it

as an experiment since there had been a drug treatment centre situated in Stockwell Gardens Estate for seventeen years. There were, he added, fearful residents there at the beginning, which dissipated as they realised that their fears were groundless. In addition, Cllr Sanders said he believed the security package would go a long way to allaying residents' fears.

36. Sarah Mitchell, a resident from Brighton Terrace called the comparison with Stockwell Garden Estate erroneous since Brighton Terrace was a small, quiet residential area that was already enduring severe misery caused by drug dealers. She said that it seemed as if residents were being asked to accept very good intentions on trust with the notion that wardens working limited hours could do anything to intimidate the very frightening drugs dealers in the vicinity. She added that the proposed investment in security was not something that residents should be thanking the Council for, but that it was required regardless of there being a drug treatment centre.

37. Furthermore, she said that the idea of the needle exchange to attract drug users to the area, and hopefully onto treatment programmes, was a very noble aim. However, she said that it would be inconceivable that bringing chaotic drug users in the area would not also attract drug dealers who would be delighted with the new source of clientele. She therefore suggested that there should be health assessment undertaken to examine the likely impact on the area.

38. Mick Collins, manager of the Stockwell Project, said that the proposal for Brighton Terrace was not an experiment but was evidence based and part of the solution for Brighton Terrace, which was an edge of town

centre area with a night club and doctors' surgery. He added that there were over fifty needle exchanges in Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark, and moving one to Brighton Terrace would not bring all the people who used them to Brighton Terrace.

39. Another local resident said that it was not just an issue for Brighton terrace but the wider neighbourhood which, amongst itself, had very little crime and disorder. With regard to consultation on the proposal, she said that local people only became part of the process when they asked SLAM to come to the table.

40. Furthermore, she said that the application for the drug treatment centre had already been overturned by the planning committee and therefore she could not understand why all the issues were being revisited. She added, however, that nobody in the neighbourhood objected in principle to dealing with drug issues but that a narrow street with a children's playground was not the right location.

41. Bron Davis, a resident of Trinity Gardens concurred that the need for the drug service was not under contention, but he could not understand how Brighton Terrace and surrounding streets were not, given their houses and flats, considered a residential area, albeit one close to Brixton town centre. He added that the proposed service was Lambeth-wide and for people referred to the service, not the chaotic drug users in central Brixton.

42. Lloyd Leon expressed his concerns about the proximity of the proposed site to the Ferndale Road sports centre which was used by young people including children. Mr Leon said that under no stretch of the imagination could Brighton Terrace be considered a

reasonable and convenient site for the service and suggested that the former registrars office near the police station would have been a far better.

43. Mr Leon added that since the 1980's police had said that the majority of drug users in Brixton came from outside of Lambeth. Therefore, he said, drug users and dealers would be brought from outside the borough to a square at the back of nowhere.

44. In response to a query from the floor as to the purpose of having Brighton Terrace on the CPCG agenda, Jim Toohill referred to the Planning Committee minutes and said that the Chair of the planning committee had moved a motion to grant planning permission, but, unable to find a seconder, had postponed the decision until November. He understood, therefore, that permission had been neither granted nor denied. The reason for CPCG debate on the subject was because for many it was the first they had heard of the proposal and it was an unfamiliar issue.

45. Offering his own view, Mr Toohill said that while he fully respected the views of local residents, it remained an issue and a responsibility for the wider community. Mr Toohill said that he it was regrettable that there had not been a wider debate before the matter went to the Planning Committee and also that the committee had not taken a vote, which they were elected to do, instead of leaving it up in the air.

46. Citing the old Segas offices at 141 Acre Lane - which some had suggested as an alternative - as an example and his familiarity with that area, Mr Toohill said that he had concluded that pretty much wherever the Centre was proposed to be sited would elicit similar, passionately held

objections as those of Brighton Terrace.

47. Given the choice, Mr Toohill said he would prefer that it was in an area that had the resources to deal with any consequent problems, which Brixton town centre either had or ought to have. Another focal point, away from the town centre, would only dilute any police effort.

48. Mr Toohill said that he hoped the Brighton Terrace residents understood that the rest of Brixton was not being callous towards their concerns, but trying to find the best solution for the community overall.

49. Mr Meer said that a consultation process had been undertaken regarding the drug treatment centre involving mail-outs to 800 residents resulting in a meeting at the Brix, St Matthew's on 16 March 2005 and followed by meetings with residents' associations.

50. Teresa McCaffrey, a Brixton resident, asked if there would be a greater collaboration to get rid of drug dealers in Brixton before it was flooded with addicts. On the consultation process she said the Council had a duty to consult with everyone whose health, safety or welfare is affected, not just 800 of Lambeth residents.

51. Richard Pope (mybrixton.org) said that as a town centre resident he was fully aware of the problems with drug dealing and drug use, He said that understood that treatment capacity was at its limit and that whilst everyone was in agreement that there should be additional facilities, no one would commit as to where they should be. Mr Pope referred to a petition on mybrixton.org which was he said was rapidly gathering support for the Brighton Terrace proposal.

52. Mr Meer said that in terms of the consultation process, the DAAT had gone through Council Members and the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) which was the appropriate and proper process. Mr Meer informed the meeting that there were drug services throughout the borough and that only 20% of clients would use Brighton Terrace, less than would be seen by the GP surgery there.

53. With regard to drug dealing in Brixton, Mr Meer said that there were measures to address the problem with a number of projects and programmes in the pipeline. Cllr. Angie Meader said that copies of the HSC minutes were available to the public and could be obtained from CPCG office.

54. Michael Johnson, the architect for the project, said that he had been involved in three schemes in Brighton Terrace over the past fifteen years including a night club and a residential scheme for the old Bess bakery, which local residents also objected to. Mr Johnson stated that it was not the Council that had chosen the site but the clinicians.

55. With regard to other possible sites, Mr Johnson said that there were parameters to their availability which could take an age to resolve, and somebody had to make the big judgement. Otherwise, he added, the proposal could be “kicked into the long grass” and years would pass before it was sorted out.

56. Dr Mike Kelleher said that the South Lambeth and Maudsley NHS Trust had to look for property like any organization and had consulted on the running of the service. Dr Kelleher reiterated that over 80% of patients with addiction problems in Lambeth would be treated away from Brighton Terrace in 37 GP practices, various mental health team sites across the borough, Kings

College and St Thomas' Hospitals and many other locations.

57. At present, there were very few secondary sites of any kind in Brixton town centre at the moment. Furthermore, he said, there was no evidence that drug treatment centres attract drug dealers or patients seeking to buy drugs.

58. Dr Kelleher said that patients who attended treatment centres tended to be the poorest and most deprived people in all of our communities. Furthermore, studies showed that treatment can stop people from re-offending and keep them out of prison, the population of which in Britain was the second highest in the world, as well as improving their physical and mental health.

59. Dr Ann Sassoon, a resident of Trinity Gardens emphasised the absence of any explanation for the siting of the treatment centre or discussion of any other sites considered, and that the whole proposal came across as a *fait accompli*. While she agreed that there was need for the work done with drug addicts and had no personal issues against the centre, Dr Sassoon said residents had not seen any convincing evidence for it to be situated at Brighton Terrace.

60. Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman said that the argument against the centre being located at Brighton Terrace had not convinced him, and that it was similar to the argument used against the proposal of Lambeth Hospital becoming a mental hospital, i.e. local house prices would deflate and concerns for the children who played in the Pulcross play centre.

61. On the contrary, Rev. Canon Bowman said that children continued to play at the Pulcross play centre unperturbed while house prices seem to be going up. Furthermore, he said that

those who opposed the centre were not against it in principle and would accept it being situated anywhere, as long as it was not in their own backyard.

62. A service user, who had been a client of the Stockwell Project for five years, said that from what he had heard Brighton Terrace residents were enduring a problem with drug users, which he surmised would not go away. He therefore proposed that the drug treatment centre would at least help relieve the problem which would otherwise worsen.

63. Richard Moore, whilst declaring himself undecided on the merits of the specific proposal, noted that the Planning Application had been lodged in February ahead of what he understood to be the first public consultation event in March.

64. Closing the discussion, Lee Jasper said that, as a local resident, he had had his apprehensions about Lambeth Hospital on Landor Road but had progressively found his concerns to have been unjustified, and that even some those who had initially objected were working in the hospital, such was the level of community benefit.

65. Therefore, in making decisions about the siting of centre such as the proposed drug treatment centre, he said that he understood the need to take into account the objective reality in terms of the evidence based experience and the needs of the community, which, in terms of the drug problem in Brixton, were writ large.

66. Mr Jasper said that the community would be mistaken not to site such treatment centres where they would be best placed and that people needed to be willing to take more responsibility to work with the health authority to tackle the drugs problem.

67. Over the years, Mr Jasper said that the problem in Brixton had been sporadically addressed only to lead to displacement and a gradual return. Mr Jasper maintained that an approach was needed which did not simply rearrange the problem to suit particular constituencies, but one that took into account the borough's communities as a whole.

68. Furthermore, Mr Jasper reiterated the view of others that drug addicts were real people with real problems that needed the support and help that drug programmes could provide. Working with the package of measures offered by the Council,

69. Mr Jasper concluded that he would accept such a treatment centre in his own street, understanding that the issue, as Lambeth was experiencing it as a whole, was one that needed a strategic decision to be made for the greater good of the borough.

70. There was objection from the floor that Mr Jasper, as Chair of the meeting, was inappropriately expressing a personal view.

71. Mr Jasper said that the Group would be willing to facilitate a broader debate in order that other constituents in the borough could contribute to the debate.

The Year Ahead

72. Supt. Stewart Low gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lambeth Police performance (see attached) and gave the following responses.

73. Ch. Insp. Nigel Cook said that a strategic decision had been made to defer seeking the Group's assistance in identifying priority Safer Neighbourhood (SN) until the half-year point i.e. when September 2006 had passed, but that letters had been sent to a number of people throughout the borough asking

for their perceptions on the main issues in terms of crime and the environment. During the financial year 2006/7, Mr Cook said all Lambeth wards would have a SN team.

74. In relation to Smart Water, Supt. Andy Tarrant said that the local authority had made £25,000 available and burglary hotspots in the borough were being identified. He added that a programme to secure premises from the commission of burglary would be rolled out over the forthcoming months.

75. With regard to elderly persons, Supt. Tarrant said that police had been involved in various activities during the recent Celebrating Age Week, including seminars and giving out crime prevention advice, particularly around distraction burglary. Abdul Sultan Virani expressed his appreciation to Supt. Andy Tarrant and his officers for taking an interest in the elderly and their various issues.

76. Jim Toohill said that having had discussion and agreement with Borough Commander Martin Bridger, the Group was expecting to have a deliberation on policing priorities for next year, and as such had invited Lambeth Safer Neighbourhood representatives to the meeting in order that they could see the "big picture" for 2006/7. It was surprising and embarrassing, therefore, that such had not been dealt with in the presentation.

77. In response to Arulini Velmurugu, Supt. Low said in terms of the policing plan, police needed to pick up her views with regard to the disabled and crime in the process of formulating the plan. In respect of SN issues, Supt. Low said that he would speak with Sgt. Kevin Hyder and get back to her.

78. Lee Jasper said that he was concerned that Ms Velmurugu was being patronised in that she is continually raising issues of crimes and the disabled that were never resolved. Mr Jasper requested a proper police response to her concerns.

79. In response to Paul Reynolds, Ch. Insp. Cook added that the concept of SN panels was that they were the crux by which SNs delivered by taking into account the views of many bodies including residents associations, neighbourhood and business watches. Being community led, the police were also invited to give their view as members.

80. However, Ch. Insp. Cook said that the priorities for the police SN teams were identified by the SN panel. Ch. Insp. Cook added that there were a range of engagement mechanisms within the SN fora which were being promoted across the borough, such as open days to street parades.

81. In response to Ivelaw Bowman and Wesley Stephen, Supt. Low said that he would undertake to obtain an update on the murders of Solomon Martin and Victoria Adu-Mensah.

82. Lee Jasper said that he was concerned about the domestic violence statistics, which may have increased due to greater reporting, and that he would like to see the figures broken down for a greater understanding.

83. In response to Lee Jasper, PC Graham Alldus, Lambeth' Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Liaison Officer, said that there had been a small increase in the number of homophobic incidents, mainly alcohol related, on Clapham High Street involving verbal

abuse. There was little in terms of reports of physical attacks.

84. Following the murder of Jody Dobrowolski, PC Alldus said that two reports had been given to a non-police charity, Gallop, however they were vague and anonymous. Mr Jasper congratulated the MPS for the excellent way in which the crime was investigated and led to two significant arrests.

85. *PC Alldus said that he would look into and report back on some homophobic incidents witnessed by Wesley Stephenson that had occurred in Clapham High Street and Acre Lane over the summer.*

86. Supt. Tarrant introduced Yvonne Okiye, the recently appointed Anti-race Hate Crime Coordinator, who worked at the Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust Offices alongside the Domestic Violence and LGBT Coordinators, Marianna Tortell and Amy Donovan.

87. *Lee Jasper said that he looked forward to working with the hate crime coordinators in order to develop a reporting mechanism to the Group meetings.*

88. In relation to the policing plan, Lee Jasper said that it was a real opportunity to have had Lambeth's policing priorities, as opposed to the Government's policing priorities, prioritised by Lambeth police. This, he said, was the reason why the Group wanted a detailed presentation about the options around the "basket of ten" crimes that had to be reduced by 20%, and the flexibility of including local crime not counted in the ten such as domestic violence and homophobic crime. Mr Jasper said that he was deeply disappointed that having planned for a discussion over the past month only to be presented with a time line.

89. John Howard said that if Mr Jasper was going to reprimand police officers over their presentations, then he ought to do it across the board, and it must include the Borough Commander because that is where it stops.

90. Anna Tapsell raised the issue of the inadequacy of MPS IT systems and the extraordinary bureaucracy involved in the reporting mechanisms, which in one case leading to a hiatus of two weeks before a victim of domestic violence was visited by the police. Ms Tapsell proposed that the Group seek a response from the MPA as to why it tolerated the situation and what it was doing to resolve these issues.

91. *Mr Jasper said there was a huge project ongoing to try to deliver some IT coherence to the MPS IT systems, and he would seek a report back from John Roberts.*

92. *In respect of the presentation of the Community Safety Strategy in the year ahead (included on the agenda), Mr Toohill said that since the community safety agenda was inextricably related to the policing plan, it would best for it to taken up by Supt. Tarrant's successor as Head of Community Safety at a future meeting.*

Any Other Business

93. With regard to the Group's AGM, Paul Reynolds said that he thought that the spirit of the change to the constitution and engagement of community groups had not been achieved by the notion of facilitating more participation of community Groups when former Individual Members, Wesley Stephenson and Jim Toohill, stood as representatives of recently affiliated Your Story and Victim Support respectively. Mr Reynolds said that he thought

that new organisations like Your Story should serve an apprenticeship.

94. Lee Jasper said he understood that this was Mr Reynold's perception but added that Your Story members, such as Adrian Jones, had been attending Group meetings for a number of years but had taken some time out. However, he noted Mr Reynolds concerns.

95. John Wainwright asked the Group to consider taking a stand on the issue of no police officers being held to account for the killing of Harry Stanley. He proposed that the Group may wish put a motion to a subsequent meeting wherein the Group would make its feelings quite plainly felt to the highest echelons of the MPS.

96. Lee Jasper said that while an individual case would be difficult to deal with, the policy of armed police engagement would be less so.

97. *Lee Jasper said that he would pursue an issue of a stop and search, raised by Gill Kenealy, with the Borough Commander.*

98. Rev Canon Ivelaw Bowman, said that he would wish to discuss at a future meeting the issue of entry requirements for the MPS.

99. On behalf of Rev. Canon Bowman, Lee Jasper asked Supt. Low to take back the issue of the Police Carol Service, which had not occurred over recent years, to Borough Commander Martin Bridger.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**6.00 p.m. Tuesday
6 December 2005
Christ Church (North Brixton)
90 Brixton Road SW9**

* Minutes in ***bold italic*** indicate action points