

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
for LAMBETH**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

7 FEBRUARY 2006

**Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton Hill SW2 1RW**

PRESENT: CPG BOARD Lee Jasper (Acting Chair), Paul Andell, Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Jim Toohill (Victim Support), Wesley Walters-Stephenson (Your Story), Anna Tapsell, Cheryl Sealey, Abdul Sultan Virani (Lambeth Pensioners' Forum)
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP Nick Abengowe **Herne Hill Forum**; Pauline Bower **Churches Together in Clapham**; Rod Brown **Lambeth Leaseholders Forum**; Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler **Clapham Town N'hood Watch**; Neil Flanigan **Victim Support Lambeth**; Stuart Horwood, John Gordon **Brixton Market Traders Assoc.**; Dr Brian Mantell **Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women**; David Hart **Clapham Community Partnership**; Paul Reynolds **Herne Hill Society**; David Tomlinson **Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.**; **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS** Shane Collins; Peter Harris, Lena James; Gill Kenealy, Richard Moore, Fernando Senior, Jane Warwick **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP** Sue Jacobs **Crown Prosecution Service**; Lloyd Leon **Lambeth ICV**; The Most Rev. Dr Bancroft McCarthy, Phylis Jackson **HMP Brixton Independent Monitoring Board**; Sally Rance **Lambeth Probation**; John Roberts **MPA**; **SECTOR WORKING GROUPS** George Tuson **Streatham Southern**, John Wainwright **Clapham LAMBETH COUNCIL** Cllr. Robert S. McConnell, Cllr. Angie Meader, Cllr. Darren Sanders, Cllr. Peter O'Connell, Chris Lee (Asst. Ch. Exec) **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Brgh. Cmdr. Martin Bridger, Supt. Stewart Low (Brixton), Supt. Rick Algar (Streatham), Supt. Alistair Sutherland (Kennington); Supt. Paul Wilson (Community Partnership), Supt. Jonathan Tottman (CSC), Ch. Insp. Nigel Cook (Safer Neighbourhoods), Insp. Steve Ainscough; Sgt. Ronnie Whelan **BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE** Ch. Insp. Paul Wilson **SECRETARIAT** Ben McKendrick

MoPs: Steve Govier, John Howard, Toaha Qureshi, Catriona Robinson, Keith Shaw, Frances Smith, Hazel Watson

Apologies: PC Graham Allodus, Greta Brooks, Jean Carpenter, David Corderoy, Deric Craig, Insp. Graham Croucher, Gary Dando, Simon Harding, Bushy Kelly, Ros Munday, Yvonne Okyo, Hazel Saunders, Cllr. Lydia Serwaa, Arulini Velmurugu

Introduction

1. Lee Jasper welcomed Nick Hardwick, Chair of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), to the meeting.

2. On behalf of the Group, Lee Jasper said he wanted to convey wishes for a speedy recovery to Sheila Draper, St Matthew's Estate Tenants' Association (SMETA), who had suffered a minor heart attack. SMETA was represented at the meeting by Mr L. Turvey.

**Independent Police
Complaints Commission**

3. Nick Hardwick said that he was not able to discuss the contents or conclusions of the IPCC investigation into shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes. However, he added that the Group and the Lambeth community were high on his priorities in terms of keeping people informed. Therefore, he said that he would be happy to return to the Group as often as took to keep everyone informed of progress.

4. The IPCC, Mr Hardwick said, were not in the position to disclose the contents of the report for two reasons. First of all, the IPCC wanted to ensure that it did not run the risk of prejudicing any subsequent legal proceedings, and wanted to make sure the process was fair to the family of Jean Charles de Menezes and to the police officers involved.

5. Mr Hardwick added that the report was a minute by minute account of an anti-terrorist operation that went wrong. However, on those grounds alone, with the security issues that they entailed, the report could not be disclosed.

6. Mr Hardwick said there had been much media speculation about what may or may not be in the report, some of which was true and some of which was not, but the IPCC was not prepared to comment. Mr Hardwick cautioned against people jumping to conclusions on the

basis of inaccurate and partial reports in the press.

7. Mr Hardwick said that IPCC report was in a number of parts, the first being the submitted substantive report into the operation of 22 July. He added that he was confident that he had as full and accurate description of what happened, and the explanations for it, as was possible to obtain.

8. A second part to the report, still to be submitted, would be concerned with the operational lessons to be learned that arose from the investigation. Mr Hardwick said that he wanted to make the process happen as quickly as possible and the recommendations part would be completed within the next three weeks.

9. Mr Hardwick said that a second and separate complaint, the investigation of which was still in progress, had been made by the family of Jean Charles de Menezes concerning statements made by MPS personnel subsequent to the shooting, and whether any of them were knowingly untrue.

10. During the first part of the investigation, Mr Hardwick said that independent IPCC investigators had possessed all the powers of a police officer i.e. they could interview people under caution and seize evidence. On the basis of their investigation, Mr Hardwick said that he had decided that a criminal offence may have been committed and he therefore submitted the report to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

11. Mr Hardwick said that the IPCC's legal duty was not to decide whether a criminal offence had been committed, but if it was thought a criminal offence *may* have been committed the IPCC was obliged

to submit its report to the CPS. It was the CPS, he added, that would decide whether the evidence was sufficient enough to put any one before a court, while it was for jury to decide on matters of guilt.

12. Mr Hardwick said that the CPS had said that they would try to make a decision before Easter. However, from previous experience, he said that he thought this to be rather optimistic. Furthermore, he said that if the CPS decided that there should be criminal charges he would not expect a trial to take place before the end of the year.

13. If the CPS decided that there should be no criminal charges, Mr Hardwick said that an inquest would be held, which he thought would take place within a similar timescale. Following an inquest the matter would return to the IPCC, and if any disciplinary offences needed to be addressed a tribunal would be convened.

14. Apart from the Group's concern about police accountability, Mr Hardwick said that he was aware also that the Group wanted to see that urgent action was taken to ensure that the same mistakes were not repeated. Therefore, he said that IPCC policy from the start had been one of not waiting until the lengthy process of investigation had finished before any action was taken in terms of how to take preventative measures.

15. As such, following an initial review within the first few days following the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes, Mr Hardwick said that he understood that the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) had undertaken a wide review of the Kratos policy, which was to be published. The IPCC would then make its recommendations,

quite independently of ACPO's findings.

16. When giving the report to the CPS, Mr Hardwick said that the IPCC was also obliged to give the report to the disciplinary authority for the officers concerned. In the case of the senior officers that was the Metropolitan Police Authority, and in the case of the less senior ranks it was the MPS itself.

17. Mr Hardwick said that if a case was particularly grave and the circumstances exceptional, the IPCC also had the discretion to give its report to the Home Secretary. In this instance, Mr Hardwick said that he did so because he felt that the matters the report uncovered were so serious that the Home Secretary, being the person ultimately responsible for the safety of London and the Police Service as a whole, needed to see it so he could use his power and authority to make sure that the proper steps were being taken to prevent a similar thing happening.

18. In respect of relations with Jean Charles de Menezes' family, Mr Hardwick said that he understood their frustration and anger at not yet having had sight of the IPCC's report. While this was not possible, Mr Hardwick said that the IPCC were prepared to give them a full and detailed briefing of the contents of the report and its conclusion, but in confidence and outside the glare of the media. He added that he believed this would satisfy most of their concerns and would hopefully take place within the next few days.

19. In response to Anna Tapsell concerning the involvement of the army, or not, in the incident, Mr Hardwick said that the IPCC had spoken to everybody they had needed to in this case regardless of what organisation

they belonged to, and had no problems in doing so.

20. In response to Shane Collins, Mr Hardwick said that what happened after the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes was also part of the IPCC investigation and if, as reported in the media, evidence had been tampered with by Special Branch that would constitute an offence.

21. In response to John Howard, Mr Hardwick said that he did not agree with the assertion that because certain things had been reported in the newspapers that it must suggest that they were true. For example, he said that all the papers reported as an absolute fact that Jean Charles de Menezes had been wearing a large padded jacket, had ran into Stockwell station, leapt over the barrier and ran away from police officers, which was now known to be completely untrue. Mr Hardwick reiterated the point that people should not jump to conclusions.

22. In respect of the investigation undertaken so far, Mr Hardwick said that it had been done in about a quarter of the time that it would have taken under the former police complaints system, and as thoroughly as anyone could have done. In terms of how long it could take to conclude, Mr Hardwick said that to some extent some of the processes, such as legal ones, were not in the IPCC's hands.

23. With regard to the matter of trying to prevent inaccurate reporting, Mr Hardwick said that if anyone deliberately made inaccurate statements they would be investigated with appropriate action taken. In respect of the amount of media coverage so far, Mr Hardwick said that it had been very frustrating with even a leak from within the IPCC.

24. Mr Hardwick said that in order to achieve a proper and just result people needed to exercise patience and control, and resist giving half truths and stories to the media. People could make their minds up after they had received the full picture, at which point they could judge the effectiveness of the IPCC investigation and how police conducted the operation.

25. In response to Lloyd Leon, Mr Hardwick said that Jean Charles de Menezes family had made a second and separate complaint about police public statements made after his shooting, which was being investigated.

26. In response to Paul Reynolds, Mr Hardwick said that the IPCC's powers of interview under caution and referral to the CPS were more restricted when dealing with other security agencies when compared to the police. However, on this occasion they had identified everyone they needed to speak to and that they, and the organisations to which they belonged, had spoken willingly. If they hadn't done, he said that there would have been a problem as their powers did not extend to everyone.

27. In response to Jim Toohill, Mr Hardwick said that IPCC's recommendations fell into three parts. Firstly, those arising from the operation itself. Secondly, those involving post-incident procedures. Thirdly, the relationship between the national forces and national policies and what happened on the ground in Lambeth.

28. Mr Hardwick said that if taken up the recommendations would be monitored but the IPCC could not enforce the acceptance of them. Yet, Mr Hardwick said that he thought this was right because if the IPCC was able give directions

then it would become responsible for policing and therefore not independent of it.

29. Mr Hardwick explained that the IPCC's powers were being extended and that it would have responsibility for the new Customs and Revenue Service and Immigration Enforcement where they were exercising police type powers.

30. However, Mr Hardwick said that he did not think it would a good thing for the IPCC to become a large, bureaucratic, second national police force. And should the IPCC's powers be extended to a whole range of possible agencies with which the police conducted joint operations, the IPCC would become a surrogate police force itself, which would raise the question about who would investigate the IPCC when it got it wrong. Extending powers to any type of joint police operation, he added, needed to be careful thought about and debated with such as the Group.

31. Concluding the agenda item, Lee Jasper thanked Mr Harding for attending and invited him back at a later date. Mr Jasper said that the broader issue arising from the Group's general concerns was around Operation Kratos. ***Mr Jasper said that Group should take up MPS Commissioner Ian Blair's offer for a wider debate on Kratos and invite him to a future meeting. The Group supported this proposal.***

Information from the CPCG Board and Members

32. Jim Toohill referred the meeting to the tabled February briefing paper for information from the Group's Board, highlighting the update on No Deal, the need for the Group to find new office space and the submission of Group's funding bid.

33. Mr Toohill said that the time of completion of the makeup of the Group's Board was near and that Group members would soon be written to informing them that they would remain as members of Group unless they stated otherwise.

34. Bearing in mind the contribution of the Group to the community and beyond, Mr Leon asked if the Group could negotiate with Lambeth Council to find suitable premises for a low rent. ***Mr Jasper proposed to Chris Lee that he facilitate further discussion on this matter with a view to finding accommodation for the Group given its particular circumstances.***

Minutes of the Meeting 10 January 2006 and Matters Arising from the Minutes 10 January 2006.

35. It was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting of 10 January 2006 and Matters Arising would be deferred until the meeting of 7 March 2006.

Lambeth Police Report

36. Mr Bridger gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lambeth Police performance since the last Group meeting (see attached).

37. On the matter of prostitution and kerbcrawling, Ch. Insp. Nigel Cook said that figure of 300 related to women who had been arrested on the streets in the act of looking for business for sex services. There had been 85 arrests of kerbcrawlers as a result of proactive operations, which police tried to run as often as resources permitted, bearing in mind that specially trained officers from out of the borough were required to act as decoys.

38. Ch. Insp. Cook said that many of the women arrested

chose not to appear at court and therefore warrants were issued for their arrest - 92 in total. 22 arrests for other offences included possession of drugs. On the matter of prostitution cautions, Ch. Insp. Cook said that these were issued to women that did not have a conviction for prostitution. He added women had to have two cautions before they could be arrested in law for loitering for the purposes of prostitution.

39. In relation to the handover of the IPCC report into the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes, Mr Bridger said that he had called a meeting of Lambeth United. One of the matters they had sought to address had been how to be prepared for any community concerns. Mr Bridger said that he was grateful for the support of those who attended.

40. In relation to Safer Neighbourhoods (SNs), Mr Bridger said that the position in Lambeth had shifted considerably. Ch. Insp. Cook said that from the outset Lambeth police in partnership with the local authority and others had been planning SN rollout in terms of the initially published two-year rollout programme 2006-2008.

41. However, the full rollout time had been accelerated for completion by April 2007 for SN teams consisting of a Police Sergeant, two Police Constables and three Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). And depending on which internal guidance note was followed Ch. Insp. Cook said there was an expectation of a full rollout by September or December 2006.

42. Ch. Insp. Cook said that the new timetable greatly frustrated police efforts to work in partnership and gear things up within the Council to make sure that service delivery could match

the demand that SNs would bring to it.

43. There had recently been an announcement that, on 1 April of this year, it was expected that every council ward across London would have a SN team consisting of one sergeant, one constable and two PCSOs. Ch. Insp. Cook said that this would bring challenges to the police as an organisation. At a local level, Lambeth had 79 PCSOs with 26 more needed to give every ward two PCSOs.

44. Ch. Insp. Cook said that another requirement placed on Lambeth police was the security of Westminster from the Thames South Bank. However, there was not a sufficient contingent of PCSOs to fully carry out that role without the involvement of their colleagues, who should be ward based or uniformed police officers. Ch. Insp. Cook said that the only resolution he could see to the problem was the injection of PCSOs from elsewhere within the organisation, or the responsibility for security being absorbed by another part of the MPS.

45. Ch. Insp. Cook said that an independently commissioned report in May 2005 had concluded that Lambeth police needed an extra nine PCSO, which did not even take into account the growth the police were currently looking at. He added that for there to be two PCSOs in every ward by 1 April, another 35 PCSOs would be required.

46. In terms of the longer term rollout, Ch. Insp. Cook said that the Central Recruitment Team had informed him that they 150 training opportunities every month between April 2006-2007 and those were the numbers required to grow SNs across London. Therefore, he said that the only way that SN teams could be rolled across Lambeth

by September 2006 would be if they had vacant posts.

47. Mr Bridger said that some local authorities, such as Tower Hamlets, had chosen to buy PCSOs for their wards. However, Lambeth had decided to invest in community wardens, which he said would work alongside SN teams under directions of the police.

48. Subject to agreeing the council tax and allocation of budget, Chris Lee said that the Council was looking at putting £2.5 million per year into wardens - providing for at least three per ward to compliment the SN teams with joint tasking and accommodation.

49. In response to Mr Jasper, Mr Lee said that the Council had considered buying PCSOs but had opted for wardens as it wanted absolute direct control over the use of the resource. So while jointly tasked with PCSOs, the wardens would be clearly branded alongside park rangers and other mobile patrolling services under the Council's control.

50. In response to Mr Reynolds, Mr Lee said that the Council chose wardens above PCSOs because although they would have a very clear community safety role it would not be the totality of their remit. He added that the Council wanted wardens to pick up on other issues outside of the community safety brief, such as environmental issues, street cleanliness and the whole livability agenda, and would probably have access to things which the police and PCSOs did not.

51. In response to Mr Leon, Mr Lee said that the wardens on site had already been through bespoke training in order to qualify for the post and it had proved to be very successful. Furthermore, research from the

Home Office, Social Exclusion Unit and other boroughs showed that wardens were successful and could work alongside police officers.

52. Mr Lee added that the Council was looking at further bespoke training alongside Lambeth police in order to make sure the joint tasking of these wardens was as effective as possible and that they really complimented the SN teams.

53. In response to Wesley Stephenson, Mr Lee said that in respect of a performance regime work was ongoing in terms of the job description, the tasks and how success was measured. The Council was liaising with other boroughs, particularly Southwark, with regard to cross border issues.

54. Also in response to Wesley Stephenson, Mr Bridger said that cross border offending was a real problem and that a forthcoming three week operation would address that issue.

55. Stuart Horwood said he wished to congratulate Mr Bridger on the arrest rates so far during No Deal and that he would like to see a breakdown of police stops in the market area. Furthermore, he suggested that there was a need for positive publicity about the arrest rates to inspire public confidence in the market. Mr Horwood also commented on the lack of police presence on Saturdays do to abstraction of police to football matches.

56. Mr Bridger said that he was keen to publish some positive publicity around No Deal arrest rates and that following a meeting with members of the community a positive publicity process was being progressed.

57. Supt. Stewart Low said that he accepted that the police

needed to provide more meaningful data and that a breakdown of arrests for drug type would be carried out. Furthermore, he said that arrest and outcome data would clarify the issue of offences and what happened beyond that. Supt Low added that arrest location, particularly for people living in centre of Brixton, was of interest, as was the residence of those charged with drug dealing.

58. With regard to performance, Supt. Low said that police were seeking to shape the way in which they provided information back on its successes. On the matter of police visibility, Supt. Low said that it was a difficult issue and the police were trying to put as much resource into it as possible. He added that a street duties course had just started with new officers coming to Brixton that would be added to the officers already working in the town centre.

59. With regard to the idea of a Business Watch in Brixton, Supt. Low said that he was aware that Rachel Gailey and Insp. Malcolm Noon had linked in with businesses with a meeting already held and another to be held soon.

60. In response to Shane Collins request for statistics for the percentage arrestees (for any offence) testing positive for Class A drug use, Mr Bridger said that he was beginning to find that the more statistics he provided the more people asked for. He added that there needed to be a debate, particularly with the advent of SNs, about the level of statistics in areas of policing that the police should provide.

61. Jim Toohill said that discussions were already ongoing with Lambeth police concerning the statistics for the police monthly report. However, he said that it was sometimes

the case that certain matters became highlighted and people want to see statistics. Mr Toohill proposed that there needed to be an agreement with the police that there would be some capacity to deliver additional, ad hoc analysis but that the Group equally should appreciate that non-standard analysis could be extremely time consuming for the police, given the inadequacies of some of their IT systems and the links between them.

62. Paul Andell said that in terms of a process it was something that could be negotiated through representation from the Group office in relation to one-off statistics. Mr Andell added that he accepted the fact that there would in future be a common agreed report from the police, and that perhaps any specialist depth to statistical reports could be passed through the Group office.

63. In response to Cllr. Angie Meader, Ch. Insp. Cook stated categorically that there would be no wards that would not receive SN team cover. Furthermore, he said that there were strict guidelines regarding the abstraction of SN officers and apart from training purposes there were plans for this to occur on only three occasions; May Day, Notting Hill Carnival and New Year's Eve.

64. With regard to wardens, Ch. Insp. Cook said that the police were currently in negotiation with the Council about what the line of accountability would look like and were discussing matters such as recruitment protocols and security level vetting in order that police could adequately brief wardens with the intelligence and information in their possession.

65. In respect of South Bank security, Ch. Insp. Cook said that was not in relation to any

particular Bill but arose out of the MV Nisha incident on the Solent, which raised the potential in the minds MPS senior management for a water borne terrorist attack on London. While there had been a number of possible targets identified, the primary one was the Houses of Parliament.

66. Paul Andell asked if Mr Bridger could provide an action plan for street crime. However, while also commending Mr Bridger for his success in terms of stop and search hit rates in respect of No Deal, he further asked how this success could be maintained for general stop and search around the borough.

67. In respect of previous success against street robbery under former Borough Commander Quinn, Mr Bridger said that his predecessor had a large team of 40 officers made available to him from the centre, the funding for which had ended shortly after his arrival in Lambeth. However, in perspective, it made the recent successes against street robbery in Lambeth appear significant.

68. With regard to producing an action plan for street crime, Mr said this would be done although he thought that there were more challenges concerning the partnership work that needed to be done around street crime.

69. In respect of the stop and search figures in Brixton market area, Mr Bridger said that it had caused him to think why it was successful in a confined area compared to across the rest of the borough, and which he largely put down to specific police intelligence, such as CCTV, and officer discretion.

70. Mr Andell said that Territorial Support Group (TSG) had indicated a 35% arrest rate across London in relation to stop and search, and would be

reporting back on the best practices that have enabled them achieve such a high hit rate. Mr Andell requested that Mr Bridger use similar best practice in terms of high achievable hit rates more generally throughout the borough.

71. Mr Bridger said that he had not before heard of the 35% hit rate figure for successful TSG stop and searches but that he would look at the evidence and report back to the Group.

72. In response to David Wilson Carr, Supt. Jonathan Tottman said that homophobic offences were defined as those committed against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities. Supt. Tottman said that police worked very closely with a LGBT advisory group while investigations into homophobic offences in Lambeth were handled by the Community Safety Unit where a dedicated hate crime analyst mapped all hate crime offences.

73. Supt. Tottman said that not all homophobic crimes were reported to the police, which was of concern in terms of the LGBT communities' confidence in the police. Supt Tottman said that anyone concerned about LGBT issues could contact him at

74. In response to a comment from John Howard, Jim Toohill apologized for a misleading statistic in the No Deal update (which had been replicated on the Police Report slides) which had caused confusion.

75. In response to Mr Howard, Mr Bridger said that there were a whole range of issues as to why the police detection rate for gun crime was low. He added that Supt. Tottman was looking into matter and that a full answer would be provided for the next meeting.

76. Jim Toohill asked why, instead of having a fast rollout of 'hollow' SNs, which would not have adequate panels, Lambeth could not adhere to the original, slower timetable that would ensure that a ward was fully staffed and would have a functioning panel.

77. In response, Mr Bridger said that the speeded up rollout had been imposed and that the Commissioner had directed that they would be in place with one Sergeant, one PC and two PCSOs by 1 April. However, while there were some difficulties such as working out where to place the SN teams, on a positive note Mr Bridger said it would mean every ward having an SN team. Mr Bridger added that going into next year the positive contribution of SNs would be seen.

78. Mr Lee said that the Council wanted SNs to be a success and was backing them. The leaders of the Council were also writing to the Commissioner to express their concerns about the shortage of officers and the speed that it was being introduced, which could lead to them becoming unsustainable as investment will not have been put into the SN panels.

79. Mr Lee said that the Council wanted to see SN panels be successful and have a much broader role in the livability agenda at ward level. Therefore, the council wanted to think about the SN membership and terms of reference and the legitimate role of ward councillors.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**6:00 pm Tuesday
7 March 2006**

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

www.lambethcpcg.org.uk

E-mail admin@lambethcpcg.org.uk