

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
for LAMBETH**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

7 MARCH 2006

**Archbishop Tenison School
Kennington Oval SE11**

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD Paul Andell, Greta Brooks (Churches Together in Brixton), Jim Toohill (Victim Support), Anna Tapsell, Cheryl Sealey (Ind. Membs), Abdul Sultan Virani (Lambeth Pensioners' Forum)
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP Doye Akinlade **Brixton Society**; Pauline Bower **Churches Together in Clapham**; Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler **Clapham Town N'hood Watch**; Stuart Horwood, John Gordon **Brixton Market Traders Assoc.**; Dr Brian Mantell **Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women**; David Hart **Clapham Community Partnership**; David Tomlinson **Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.**; The Most Rev. Dr Bancroft McCarthy, Phylis Jackson **HMP Brixton Independent Monitoring Board** George Tuson **Streatham Southern Sector Working Group**, John Wainwright **Clapham Sector Working Group** **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS** Lena James; Gill Kenealy, Richard Moore, Fernando Senior **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP**; Sally Rance **Lambeth Probation**; John Roberts **MPA LAMBETH COUNCIL** Cllr. Darren Sanders, Cllr. Peter O'Connell, Chris Lee (Asst. Ch. Exec), Simon Harding AD **CST METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Brgh. Cmdr. Martin Bridger, Supt. Stewart Low (Brixton), Supt. Alistair Sutherland (Kennington); Supt. Paul Wilson (Community Partnership), Supt. Jonathan Tottman (Streatham), Insp. Steve Ainscough; Sgt. Ronnie Whelan **BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE** Insp. Graham Croucher **SECRETARIAT** Ben McKendrick

Members of the Public who signed in: Hope Barrett, Tim Boxall, Neil Flanigan, Gavin Horgan, John Howard, Julian V. Hows, Stuart Hopson Jones, Rev. James Odularu, Richard Watson

Apologies: Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Rod Brown, Jean Carpenter, Shane Collins, Gary Dando, Lee Jasper, Bushy Kelly, Paul Reynolds, Hazel Saunders, Cllr. Robert S. McConnell, Arulini Velmurugu, David Warner, Jane Warwick

Introduction

1. Paul Andell thanked Gavin Horgan, Deputy Head Teacher of Archbishop Tenison School, who was to give a presentation, 'Year One of a Safer Neighbourhood', for the use of the school for the Group meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting 10 January 2006 and Matters

2. The Minutes of the Meeting 10 January 2006 were accepted without amendment

Matters Arising from the Minutes 10 January 2006

3. Ram, a former resident of St Agnes place, raised the issue of recovering his property, which had been removed into storage following the evictions, and the need for him to provide identification in order to retrieve his belongings. [Minutes 4, 5, 6, 06/12/05]

4. In response to Ram, Jim Toohill said that there was information about the Special Meeting regarding St Agnes Place in the Group's Briefing Paper.

5. As well as setting up the Special Meeting, Mr Toohill said that when Group Board members had met the leader of the Council and Mary Lynch (LBL Director of Housing), he had specifically raised the issue of Ram's property. Mr Toohill said that he was told that all Ram had to do to retrieve his property was to present some form of identification to the Council's contractor, which he thought was a reasonable request as it would be in his or anyone's best interest.

6. **With regard to facilitating a Special Meeting, Mr Andell said that the Group would be**

in contact with interested parties as soon as a suitable date had been determined.

7. Chris Lee, LBL Asst. Ch. Exec., reiterated Mr Toohill's point and said that Ram needed proof of identity (utility bill, passport, driving licence, bank statement, medical card) and an inventory before contractors would release property. Mr Lee said that he had also facilitated numerous appointments for him to do so. Anna Tapsell met with Ram and Chris Lee outside the meeting to establish what identification he could provide that would be acceptable.

8. In relation to a breakdown of Lambeth S44 stop and search figures, Mr Andell said that he understood there were only London-wide figures, which were not forthcoming from New Scotland Yard [Minute 19, 06/12/05].

9. With regard to the MPS Metcall system, Mr Andell said that the Group would take up Borough Commander Martin Bridger's offer to provide further details at a future meeting [Minute 31, 06/12/05].

10. ***In respect of the analysis of data contained on police 124d forms, concerning the recording of incidents of domestic violence, Anna Tapsell said it had been an idea put to Mr Bridger that had yet to be discussed further and agreed upon [Minute 40, 06/12/05].***

11. ***In response to Stuart Horwood, Mr Toohill said that the Group had not received a reply from Cllr. Darren Sanders regarding the Council's liability for drug dealing taking place in Brixton Market, and the Group would write to him [Minute 42, 06/12/05].***

12. In response to Fernando Senior, in relation to his concerns about police allegedly halting an exhibition at the Betty Morten Gallery, Mr Bridger said that the exhibition had not been stopped but that police attention had been called to a member of the public's reaction to pictures in the gallery in relation to male genitalia on display. Mr Bridger said officers spoke to the owner, Mr Gibson, who had considered moving two images where they could not be seen from the street. There had been no concerns about pictures depicting scenes in Brixton and Tottenham in the 1980s [Minute 76, 06/12/05]

13. Mr Senior said that he found it unacceptable that police could censor works in galleries that were part of the Black Afro-Caribbean community. He added that if it remained unchallenged then police would assume that they could do it again, and that the outcome he would like to see would be an apology to the gallery. Mr Bridger said that he would personally look into the issue in more detail.

14. Following the Group's concerns about the extension to the ambit of the Kratos policy beyond those suspected of being suicide bombers, as reported in the press, Mr Toohill said that the Group had received a reply from the MPS Assistant Commissioner confirming that this was not the case.

Minutes of the Meeting 7 February 2006 and Matters

15. The Minutes of the Meeting 7 February 2006 were accepted without amendment

Matters Arising from the Minutes 7 February 2006

16. John Howard expressed his concern that Nick Hardwick's response to his question could be taken to imply that he (John Howard) believed that media reports at the time of Jean Charles de Menezes death were accurate: he did not. Further, he questioned Mr Hardwick's judgement in making this interpretation [Minute 21, 07/0206].

17. Mr Andell pointed to the minute to which Mr Howard had referred and quoted that 'Mr Hardwick reiterated the point that people should not jump to conclusions', which he said he felt was fair comment and both he and Mr Hardwick had been agreeing on the points that Mr Howard had made.

18. With regard to the Territorial Support Group (TSG) stop and search figures, Mr Bridger said that he was in dialogue with the TSG on this matter and would come back to the Group with a report [Minute 71, 07/02/06]

19. In relation to the detection rate for gun crime, and the overall rate of gun crime, Mr Andell agreed that Mr Bridger could raise the issue as a specific agenda item at the next Group meeting on 4 April [Minute 75, 07/02/06]

Year One of a Safer Neighbourhood

20. Gavin Horgan, Chair of Oval Ward Safer Neighbourhood (SN) Panel, gave an account of the Panel's progress and experiences during the first year of its existence.

21. Mr Horgan said that initially it had appeared somewhat unclear to those who attended the first Panel meeting as to

what was the SN's agenda. Furthermore, he said that those present at the first meeting were perhaps not the representative group of people sought but that had since been achieved over the past year. The first meeting, he added, was therefore the least successful and slightly reminiscent of the 'talk bitterness' meetings in China following the Cultural Revolution.

22. Mr Horgan said that the first meeting came at a time close to the local elections and therefore there were people present who did not even come from Oval Ward, such as aspiring councilors who may have thought it an appropriate forum for them to deliver their hustings speeches.

23. Mr Horgan said that he was aware from the beginning that Sgt. Rob Elliot and his police team had tried to identify appropriate local community groups and invite representatives from them. However, he said there were problems of both people not turning up and additional, uninvited people turning up. Mr Horgan said that he had concerns that the Panel was not representative of all the community groups in Oval Ward and that he wanted to find out if it could be so.

24. Another problem, Mr Horgan highlighted, was that he was not sure whether the Oval community was aware that the Panel represented it in some way and whether it was a suitable conduit for it to access the police and state its concerns in order to set an agenda. In respect of this Mr Horgan said that the Panel had set three priorities, some of which were maintained to the present.

25. However, Mr Horgan said that the feedback that they had received from Sgt. Elliot and the people who attended the Panel meeting had been excellent and the latter had felt reassured that the problems they had raised were being addressed. They also thought that the police were being supportive and doing what had been asked of them and thereby their perceptions of safety had been increased. However, Mr Horgan said that he did not think it was feeding out into the community enough.

26. Mr Horgan said that reaching out to the community was his responsibility and that of the Panel members. He added that the first time he had been made aware of Group meetings, and as a result agreeing to host one, was when the Group asked if he would like to put the Panel's details on the Group's website, which he said was one way of starting to reach out to the local community.

27. Mr Horgan said that he had attended the conference concerning the rollout of SNs at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre the previous month. There, he said, he was entertained and informed by the Chief of the Chicago Police Department, whose own particular style of community policing, such as street roll-calls, he felt would not fit in with London policing.

28. Apart from tailoring each Panel to the needs to its own community, Mr Horgan said that he was not sure how much Panel members felt they owned some aspect of the concept or wanted to engage with it. Perhaps, he said, SN teams could meet with each member of Panels in their own community.

29. As Chair, Mr Horgan said that he relished the fact he could communicate directly with the head of his SN team and ask him what was going on between meetings, and if appropriate visit areas within the ward, and feedback to the next Panel meeting.

30. Mr Horgan said issues that had affected the SN Team and Panel had been the July bombing in London and the evictions at St Agnes Place, both of which had sapped a great deal of police time locally. However, he said the evictions had fitted in with one aspect of the Panel's action points i.e. the drug related crime in St Agnes Place.

31. Mr Horgan said while Oval Ward had a full complement of SN officers one police constable was currently on maternity leave.

32. Mr Horgan said that he thought the job being carried out by the Safer Schools Officers and SN Teams was extraordinary in terms of breaking down the stereotypical barriers between the police and young people in the local community.

33. Mr Horgan said that while it was perhaps natural for young people to resent the involvement of a majority of adults in their lives at some stage during adolescence, holding resentment towards the police at this time could not be helpful in terms crime prevention, working with the community and, perhaps later, recruitment.

34. Mr Horgan said that Schools Officers in Archbishop Tenison School had done an excellent job in getting to know the children and build up relations, which could later help their relationship with other people in the Police Service.

However, he added that the decline in the number of Schools Officers was a concern.

35. Mr Horgan said that the support received from the SN Team had been similarly excellent and that they always seemed to be keen to work with the local community. Upon reflection of the Oval Ward SN over the past year, Mr Horgan said he would expect that after another year his view would similarly be another positive message.

36. In response to Gill Kenealy, Mr Horgan said that in terms of police working with young people outside of school, as a separate matter Archbishop Tenison School hosted police cadets every week. However, within the SN Team there were no formal links with young people that had been prioritised.

37. In response to John Howard, Mr Horgan said that he agreed that it would be preferable for a local resident to be Chair of the Oval Ward SN Panel, but he had been asked to do the job and had been elected unopposed.

38. In terms of ownership, Mr Horgan said in order for Panel members to feel engaged and to want to do something for their community they had to feel that they had some personal stake in what was going on so that they would be more likely to engage with their community

39. Mr Horgan said that the wider community's concerns about SN Panels in terms of what they were, how one became a member and who was the Chair, was a matter for the Oval Ward's agenda for the forthcoming year.

40. John Roberts pointed out that the concept of community

panels encompassed those who worked in the area as well as lived there and felt a deputy head teacher to be an entirely appropriate panel chair.

41. In response to John Roberts query, Mr Horgan pointed to the need for neighbouring wards to work together, to address (for example) cross boundary issues, as one of the areas in which CPCG and the MPA could offer support the SN panels.

42. In response to Richard Moore, Mr Horgan said that Lambeth councillors had been invited to Panel meeting and so far two had attended separate meetings. Furthermore, he said that there was Council representation via Paul McCann (North Lambeth Community Safety Officer).

43. In terms of a protocol with regard to problems not being solved being taken up at a higher level within the Police or Council, Mr Horgan said that thus far it had not been necessary to do so as the problem solving process was working.

44. In response to Cllr. Peter O'Connell, Mr Horgan said that with regard Council Wardens it seemed to him that there had not been sufficient consultation and that if there had been people would be happier with the idea than they were at present.

45. Supt. Paul Wilson thanked Mr Horgan for his positive comments about Schools' Officers. He reassured the meeting that more Schools' Officers were being recruited.

46. In respect of Council Wardens, Supt. Wilson said he wished to reassure people that Lambeth police were representative on that strategic

management board and working very closely with the council to ensure that there was a joined up approach to the delivery plan.

47. Supt. Wilson said that he thought that one of the reasons why local people were attracted to local panels in Chicago was because of their informality and absence of bureaucracy around meetings. In relation to ideas from across the Atlantic, which may not appear to travel well, he said that there were still lessons to be learned from the Chicago Police Department, with which he had had direct experience of working.

48. Mr Horgan agreed that there were lessons to be learned from the Chicago experience, and although there was a certain amount of humour involved in account, he felt sure there were lessons to be learned.

49. In response to a former resident of St Agnes Place, Ram, Mr Horgan said that he was reflecting the agenda of Oval Ward Panel, which had identified drug related crime in St Agnes Place, which was not related to the evictions.

50. Paul Andell thanked Mr Horgan for his presentation and said that the group looked forward to working with SN panels more closely in the future.

51. Jim Toohill said that he thought that the issue of representation was a common one for community bodies, and that Mr Horgan's panel would find it hard work setting up the networks of communication to build that representation. He offered CPCG's ongoing support in that effort.

Lambeth Police Report

52. *In respect of the police report, Mr Bridger said that he thought there was a need to generate more themes to discuss at meetings, and that there were many things that happened in the community from a policing perspective over the period of a month. Mr Bridger said that he would like guidance from the Group about which particular issues it wanted him to cover.*

53. Mr Bridger gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lambeth Police performance since the last Group meeting. Mr Bridger said that once he had produced the figures for the end of the year, he would go through what the police had done so that he could provide confidence throughout the community.

54. With regard to the 31% stop to arrest rate in relation to 'No Deal' reported last month, Mr Bridger said that he had unintentionally misled the Group and that the rate should have actually been reported as 21%. While this was still higher than the average of 10.2% across the MPS, Mr Bridger said that he had shared with Mr Toohill the circumstances by which the error had occurred.

55. Mr Bridger said that all the material that had been used to determine the figures was available in the Group's briefing note. In respect of the operation generally, Mr Bridger said that there was a variation of reasons for arrest: of 50% for drug offences, 20% for dishonesty, 12% for violence and public order offences and 18% for other related offences.

56. Of those people searched, Mr Bridger said that 35% had provided Lambeth addresses, while the majority of those searched (57%) were in the age

range of 26-40 years of age. 11% of those searched were under the age of 21 years.

57. Mr Bridger reported the death of Thomas Fahey a victim of an attempted armed robbery in June 2005, who having died within a year and a day as a result of his injuries on 30 January 2006, was in law a victim of murder, for which two people had been charged and remanded in custody.

58. On 27 January, Mr Bridger said that a man, Michael Gallagher, had been stabbed to death by a neighbour, alleged to be suffering from mental health problems.

59. In the early morning of 7 February, the day of the Group meeting, Mr Bridger said that two people had been murdered in Norwood, just beyond Lambeth borders but which had had an impact on the Lambeth community. The victims, one male and one female, had been shot dead by people entering their address while another male wounded was undergoing surgery. A tragic loss, Mr Bridger said that the two males who had been shot were related to a person who had been working closely with him in and around gun crime

60. Mr Bridger said that when giving his presentation on gun crime in April, he wanted the Group to listen carefully to what he was trying to do. Although he accepted that Lambeth police detection concerning gun crime was currently poor, he said it was priority and over the next year and the Lambeth Partnership would be trying a new way of dealing with the menace of gun crime that was not being attempted elsewhere in the country. He added that this would empower the community and have long term sustainability.

61. *In response to David Tomlinson, Mr Bridger said that he could find out about the number of reactivated firearms and guns recovered by Lambeth police during the past year for the next meeting, and give information on the specialist support teams that came into the borough to provide help concerning gun crime.*

62. In response to John Howard, Mr Bridger said that success around any crime could not just be measured by convictions alone. He said that between a stop, an arrest and a court process there were many other factors that affected whether they concluded in a conviction or not. Sometimes this was taken out of the hands of the police and became part of the wider criminal justice process.

63. In response to the member of the public, Mr Bridger said that a dedicated team of 25 police staff worked everyday solely on allegations of domestic violence. A positive arrest policy around domestic violence meant that if a suspect was found at the scene an arrest would be made.

64. Mr Andell suggested that the member of the public should get in contact with Lambeth's domestic violence coordinator and referred him to Anna Tapsell for details of how to obtain a profile and explanation of the power relations that what went on in the private space as opposed to the public space.

65. *In response to Abdul Sultan Virani, Mr Bridger said details could be provided in respect of attacks on the elderly.*

66. Stuart Horwood commended Mr Bridger for the success in relation to 'No Deal'

and the positive affect that it was having in the Brixton Market area. However, quoting a press release from the Association of Police Authorities (APA), Mr Horwood said that one of the jobs of police authorities was to consult with local communities to find out what they wanted the local police to do.

67. Mr Horwood said that one thing that the Brixton Market community did not want the police to do was to decimate the Town Centre team from 21 to 10 constables as reported to him at a recent meeting with Supt. Stewart Low. Mr Horwood added that the drug dealing problem in the market had almost been cracked with only a hardcore of dealers remaining.

68. In response to Mr Horwood, Supt. Low said that there was a real focus in Brixton town center and that No Deal had been extended by another three months. At the moment, he said, the town center had an inspector, three sergeants and 21 constables.

69. However, Supt. Low said that part of the reason for shifting resources out was due to the commitment to rollout of SNs and putting staff into an Integrated Borough Ops Office, which Mr Bridger had alluded to in respect of bringing the Group up to date on what was happening in terms of MPS command and control, particularly in relation to Metcall centres.

70. Mr Low said that Brixton Town Center was quite different to other areas as it was where four wards, which will each be Safer Neighbourhood wards, came together and that in addition it had its own Town Centre team. At the beginning of next year an existing task force of two sergeants and 20

constables would be brought under the line command of Insp. Noone (who has charge of the Town Centre Team) with an understanding that they would work the majority of the time in the town centre.

71. Moreover, Supt. Low said that responsibility for policing Brixton Academy events would be taken from the Town Centre Team so that their shift patterns could be better fitted to the needs of the commercial centre overall rather than the Academy.

72. In response to John Gordon's comments that the Town Centre of Brixton should be deemed a Safer Neighbourhood area to guarantee a minimum level of service, Supt. Low reiterated that the aim would be for the four Town Centre wards that converged on Brixton town center would each have SN teams consisting of one sergeant, two constables and three Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

73. However, because of the existence of Town Centre team, Supt. Low said that the SN teams had tended to police the other parts of their ward. However, he added that this did not mean that the whole policing of the area was not being reviewed in terms of seeing how the policing the Town Centre could be improved.

74. Gill Kenealy said that she felt there could be an overemphasis on statistical reporting which could squeeze out issues rather than illuminate them, whilst a format where people could only put questions rather than raise substantive issues could stifle debate.

75. Ms Kenealy also said that she was concerned that so much of policing in Brixton

Town Centre appeared to be geared to the well-being of those visiting or passing through, whilst there were other parts of the borough less extensively policed where children and older people were afraid to go out.

76. Mr Bridger agreed with Ms Kenealy saying that he did not want to come to the Group and talk about statistics every month, suggesting that he should do this on a quarterly basis. At other times he said he would like to have themed discussions, about young people for example, and bring those officers involved to the meeting to share their experiences, perhaps in small breakaway groups.

77. Mr Andell said that a meeting had already been scheduled to discuss young people around the time that Lambeth had produced its youth strategy, adding that it would be useful to receive a copy of the strategy first in order to make a response to it.

78. Mr Toohill made the point that the purpose of the new format of the police report, which was an excellent job of reference, was actually in order to free up time for discussion. The police report could be produced every month and sent out in advance of meetings without the Group having to go through every graph at meetings. On the other hand, he said the statistics could produce stimulus for debate such as the figures for violent crime, which seemed not to have been raised at previous meetings.

79. In response to Pauline Bower, Mr Toohill said that, since the last meeting, he had corresponded with Lambert Allman, LBL Asst. Dir., Children and Young People's Service, seeking to find out with whom

from the Group he had consulted about the youth document. Mr Allman in response had said he had been mistaken.

80. More generally, Mr Toohill said that it was not a case that the Group was not informed of meeting which members took part in its name; the monthly briefing now gave more extensive reports than had previously been the case.

81. Anna Tapsell said that it was very important to think about the format meetings should take, in particular those themed meetings that almost needed to be extra to the business of the Group. Such meetings, she said, needed to have contributions from everyone.

82. Furthermore, Ms Tapsell said it was not just a matter of splitting into groups but having all the agencies present to see how they were working together. In addition, she said that it would be helpful if those who had a particular interest and contacts were prepared in way so as to contribute to the debate in a reasonably well planned way in order to reach some conclusion. With the help of some imagination people would come away feeling they had attended something productive.

83. In this respect, Mr Andell said that bearing in mind that the Group had been offered a detailed gun crime presentation at the next meeting, the Group should make time and space to really look at the issue and give it full justice, which could pave the way forward for more focused thematic meetings.

84. John Hows (Michael Bell Associates) said that while the police report contained many figures in terms of detection rates, he wondered whether it

would be more useful to have a systematic way of looking at having some confidence indicators around crimes that often went unreported, such as domestic violence, homophobia and other types of hate crimes. He added that it would be useful to see how well the police were engaging with the community and how well the community was reporting its concerns.

85. In response, Mr Bridger said that there was a Police Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF) going online which would address those issues and deal with the whole confidence arena. He added that he would be going to a PPAF meeting the next day and report back to the Group.

86. For a point of information, John Roberts said that the police did not have an obligation to community consultation but the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) did have a statutory one, and the APA, which the MPA was signed up to, represented the MPA and its views.

87. Mr Roberts said that the MPA carried out comprehensive community engagement to the tune of £3.2 million per year in consultation and funding projects, and in Lambeth had funded the Group to the amount of £60,000. In respect of Julian Hows point, Mr Roberts said that the Performance and Planning Committee were devising a means for measuring satisfaction in relation to performance.

88. In response to Neil Flanigan, Mr Bridger said that he would report back on the National Quality of Service Commitment.

89. In response to Stuart Hobson-Jones, Brixton

Business Forum, Supt. Low said that hopefully no rough sleepers or beggars would be seen in the vicinity of Brixton station in the mornings, due to police working in partnership with support agencies able to provide care for such people, which was a strategy the police were working towards. Unfortunately, however, Supt. Low said that some of them did drift back.

90. In response to Abdul Sultan Virani, who had said that he recalled reading in a newspaper that judges had told the police not to bring cases of theft less than £200 to court, Mr Bridger said that he did not think that had impacted on the way police dealt with people in custody. In terms of representation to Parliament about the matter, Mr Bridger said that there was a mechanism for police to do so about all sorts of issues but that would be done at a regional level.

91. In response to Mr Toohill who had asked how advanced was the idea of pubs, supermarkets and private businesses being asked to sponsor the police financially, John Roberts said that he was not aware that any proposals had been made to the MPA in this regard.

92. Richard Moore suggested that it might be helpful for MPS specialist officers to attend a Group meeting and explain their role and the extent of their capabilities. Mr Bridger said that whether they would be willing to come or not, the issue for him was, for example, that when the Group discussed gun crime next month, it would not be police officers talking but rather community members telling of how they have been engaged in the development and shaping the community's firearms policy.

93. Cllr. Peter O'Connell said that he would like to commend the police officers in conjunction with DVLA officers and other agencies who conducted a weekly roadblock in Lambeth, having learned some time ago that one in three cars stopped in the borough was found to be uninsured and others breaching a whole range of laws.

94. However, Cllr. O'Connell said that the Council had not budgeted for £10,000 overtime for Council Officers' overtime to ensure their continued involvement after the end of March. John Wainwright added that, having witnessed such a roadblock on Brixton Hill a couple of years previously, he could vouch for the efficacy of these exercises.

95. Mr Bridger said that he was grateful for Cllr. O'Connell's comments adding that there were a range of roadblocks regularly carried out by police, including those specific to gun crime and traffic type offences, across the borough.

96. In response to Cheryl Sealey, Supt. Alistair Sutherland said that a series of Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) roadblocks had taken place in the north part of the borough from which a whole range of offences had been identified with a very significant range of arrests made.

97. Supt. Jonathan Tottman said that he had been a Det. Supt. On the borough for the last eleven months as the head of the Community Safety Unit. However, he had now changed roles and had taken over from Supt. Rick Algar as Superintendent of Streatham sub-command. Supt. Tottman said he was delighted to take over from a safe pair of hands and was looking forward to working with the Streatham

community. Supt. Tottman offered to stay behind after the meeting to talk to Streatham residents.

British Transport Police (BTP)

98. Inspector Graham Croucher informed the Group about BTP's Operation Triangle that had taken place between 7-10 February. The operation had been aimed at ticket touts, primarily those who asked travelers for their travel cards, the proceeds of which Insp. Croucher said largely went to the purchasing of drugs.

99. Insp. Croucher said part of the operation had been to educate people not to give their travel cards to ticket touts. During the operation 29 people had been arrested.

100. Insp. Croucher reported that Brixton Underground Station would be closed for refurbishment between 11-17 April.

101. In response to Gill Kenealy, Insp. Croucher said that there were indeed efforts to tackle individuals touting tickets for events at the Brixton Academy, and that an Operation Radium, conducted with Council officials in the run up to Christmas had been directed at this.

102. In response to Stuart Horwood, who said that he understood there had recently been a campaign at Brixton underground to play classical music with the hope that it would subdue some of the more anti-social elements, Insp. Croucher said that it was still ongoing.

103. In response to Richard Moore, Insp. Croucher said that in relation to tasking, one of his major priorities when he went to

Stockwell had been to visit all the stations and it had given him a feel for what was going on and where to focus his resources.

104. Richard Moore said that he thought there was perhaps a role for more community involvement with BTP since most of the stations were not manned and the community did not know how information got through to BTP in order that hotspots could be identified more easily.

105. Insp Croucher pointed out that CPCG was not the only community meeting which he and his officers attended. Moreover, there were a number of ways in which BTP received information from which hotspots could be identified – from staff, from passengers, from their own observations and analysis. He pointed out that his concern was principally with the underground system.

106. Supt. Sutherland said that during his two years at Streatham, BTP Task Force was deployed in areas such as West Norwood and Gipsy Hill and that the service they provided was excellent.

107. Cllr. O'Connell said that he had recently spent a day with Ken Livingstone who was very proud that in the Mayor of London budget that further to the SN teams there would be a significant extra number of officers working with British Transport Police specifically to patrol overground railway stations. Cllr. O'Connell said that it would be relevant at a future meeting to ask BTP how it had been envisaged to deploy the extra officers.

108. Mr Andell thanked Insp. Croucher for attending the Group meeting and said that the Group looked forward to his

further involvement at future Group meetings.

Information from the CPCG Board and Members

109. Referring to the Briefing Paper for March, which had been tabled, Mr Toohill drew attention to the chief points

110. A briefing paper from LBL Housing was also tabled and John Howard and Ram questioned its accuracy.

Any Other Business

111. Julian Hows informed the meeting that his company, Michael Bell Associates, was conducting research into hate crime on behalf of Victim Support. Mr Hows said that he was looking for people who had over the last year who felt they had been a victim of hate crime, reported to the police or not, in order to build an accurate picture of people's support needs. Further details about the research, which involved interviews, were tabled, together with Mr Hows contact details.

112. Mr Andell invited Mr Hows to return to a Group meeting to give a presentation on the findings of the research and the methodology used.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**6:00 pm Tuesday
4 April 2006**

**Lambeth Accord
336 Brixton Road SW9**

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

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