

**Community-Police
Consultative Group
for Lambeth**

**Minutes of the Meeting
3 October 2006**

**Assembly Hall,
Lambeth Town Hall**

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD Paul Andell, Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Greta Brooks (Churches Together in Brixton), Jim Toohill (Victim Support), Anna Tapsell (Ind. Membs), Wesley Stephenson (Your Story), Abdul Sultan Virani (Lambeth Pensioners' Forum), **COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP** Doye Akinlade **Brixton Society**; Rod Brown **Lambeth Leaseholders Forum**; Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler **Clapham Town N'hood Watch**; David Hart, Ros Munday **Clapham Community Partnership**; E. Gotowski **Churches Together in Clapham**; Stuart Horwood **Brixton Market Traders Federation**; Hedley Johnson **West Indian Standing Conference**; Brian Mantell **Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen**; Paul Reynolds **Herne Hill Society**; David Tomlinson **Stockwell Park Res. Assoc.**; George Tuson **Streatham Southern Sector Working Group**; Hazel Watson **Milkwood Road Residents' Assoc.** **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS** Shane Collins, Peter Harris; Lena James, Gill Kenealy, Richard Moore, Cheryl Sealey, Fernando Senior **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP**; John Roberts **MPA LAMBETH COUNCIL** Cllr. Mark Bennett, Cllr. Lorna Campbell, Cllr. Rachel Heywood, Cllr. Kingsley Abrams, Cllr. Darren Sanders, Cllr. Imogen Walker **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Asst. Commissioner Tarique, Brgh. Cmdr. Martin Bridger, Supt. Alistair Sutherland, Supt. Jonathan Tottman (Streatham); Supt. Paul Wilson (Community Partnership), Sgt. Ronnie Whelan **SECRETARIAT** Ben McKendrick

Also present: Mehmda Mian Pritchard and Doreen Duncan (IPPC), Andy Hull and Hannah Sharp (MPA)

Apologies: Insp. Graham Croucher, Neil Flanigan, Elizabeth Gibson, John Gordon, Lee Jasper, Gill Kenealy, Cllr. Stephen Morgan, Yvonne Okiyo, Cllr. Neeraj Patil, Sally Rance, Cllr. Steve Reed, John Wainwright, David Warner

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

1. Information from Board/Group Members

2. On a sad note, Ms Tapsell informed the Group of the death of Gary Dando in the week previous. David Hart said he wished to remind everybody of Gary's work as an activist, particularly in regard to disability issues, who said what he thought. Mr. Hart said that Gary Dando had been a good and thoughtful friend who had genuine kindness and consideration towards others.
3. Jim Toohill drew the meetings attention to the monthly briefing, which was attached.

4. A local resident made a specific complaint of anti-social behaviour in her block of flats and was directed for help to Mr. Simon Harding (Asst Director, LBL Community Safety), who was present.

5. Minutes of the Meeting 5 September 2006

6. Minutes of the Meeting 5 September 2006 were accepted without amendment.

7. Matters Arising

8. Ms Tapsell said the minutes of the MPA User Involvement with Older People meeting were not yet ready but would be circulated as soon as they were received [Minute 5, 05/09/06].
9. Sgt. Ronnie Whelan said that as a result of Stop and Searches on Bank Holiday Monday, 25 August, two weapons had been recovered and one arrest made [Minute 45, 05/09/06].
10. Although Sgt. Whelan explained that separating race and faith hate crime figures would be a difficult and time-consuming thing to do. Nevertheless it was, Ms Tapsell said, still something that the Group ought to see [Minute 45, 05/09/06].
11. Ms Tapsell said that at a future date the Group would seek a presentation on the Metcall system of receiving and grading phone calls from the public to see how the system affected the work of local police [Minute 64, 05/09/06].

12. Policing Terrorism

13. In introducing the theme, Anna Tapsell made reference to the recent shootings at McDonalds in central Brixton, which she felt were in themselves a form of terrorism. She welcomed the owner of the franchise, Terry Dryer to the meeting and acknowledged the resilience and composure of the staff, who were all at work the next day and whom she had met, together with Mr. Dryer.
14. Anna Tapsell informed the meeting that the Council had called a meeting for 8.00 p.m. the following day, Wednesday 4 October, in the Assembly Hall to discuss gun crime in Lambeth. The meeting would be chaired by Devon Thomas and addressed by the Chief Executive and the Leader of Lambeth Council, the Borough Commander and other partners.
15. John Roberts, Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) link member said that the MPA was asking CPCGs around London to host an evening to discuss policing terrorism in terms of what the MPA had

been doing and what communities expected of the MPA in engaging the community in fighting terrorism in Lambeth. Mr. Roberts said that the concerns of the Lambeth community would be part of a jigsaw of views from other boroughs and communities in London.

16. As a Member of the Authority to which the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) was accountable, Mr. Roberts said that the MPS reported to the MPA on a monthly basis in writing and gave verbal updates on matters such as Crates, the anti-terrorism operation in Forest Gate and their long term plans for countering terrorism.
17. Mr. Roberts said that the MPA scrutinized the MPS's budget and monitored specialist operations such as the one carried out in Forest Gate, which had raised questions in the media as to how much such an operation cost and what lessons could be learned from it. Mr. Roberts added that from April 2007, the MPA had to, by law, publish a policing summary for all Londoners, which would be particular to each borough as well as London-wide. In this way, Mr. Roberts said that everyone could see what the MPA was doing with the public's money.
18. Mr. Roberts said that the MPA also requested confidential briefings from the MPS and following the 7 July bombings MPA Members had been shocked by the information they were given on the threat of terrorism from some of the intelligence that the police had received. He added that the Chair of the MPA continued to receive regular updates on terrorism issues.
19. Mr. Roberts said that from holding debates on policing terrorism he hoped that a strategy would emerge that would provide information to help people understand what to do if they found themselves caught up in a terrorist situation.
20. Supt. Alistair Sutherland, who had overall responsibility for counter-terrorism in Lambeth, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lambeth Counter-Terrorism and Extremism Seven Point Programme (see attached). Mr. Sutherland said that each London borough had its own programme, which had to be implemented by May 2007.
21. Assistant Commissioner Tarique Gaffur said he spoke from three perspectives. Firstly as part of the Commissioner's senior team which set the overall direction for the anti-terrorist response; secondly, as the officer in charge of central operations, which included many of the resources used in that response and thirdly as the highest ranking Asian and Muslim officer, a member of two communities which are feeling themselves under quiet a lot of scrutiny in respect of counter-terrorism. In a Lambeth context, he was also speaking as a local resident.
22. Mr. Ghaffur said that following the 7th July bombings the threat to London from global terrorism remained very high, with some communities feeling under quite a lot of scrutiny. Clearly, he said, the police were doing everything they could in the interest of the safety of all communities through operations preventions and detections.
23. Mr. Ghaffur said that in facing new realities the police, like any organisation, had to learn from its mistakes. Furthermore, he said that the police had to include communities in a scenario that was like nothing before, and which involved not just the MPS but also other national and international agencies. The police were having to learn new ways of working with communities in this new situation and were trying to maintain and build confidence whilst having to carry out operations that were, of necessity, different from the norm of police operations.
24. In respect of his own area of accountability, Mr Ghaffur said that he was responsible for 600 firearms officers in the MPS, who dealt with 14,000 incidents per year and carried out 50 to 60 firearms operations per month, as well as operational support units and the Territorial Support Groups (TSGs). Linked to that, Mr. Ghaffur said that he had responsibility for contingency and emergency planning, and making sure that all the lessons from the various reports on police operations were learned.
25. However, Mr Ghaffur said that there remained some huge challenges for the police, in particular around issues of communication because of the sheer number of calls the police received. Mr Ghaffur said that he looked after Metcall, the MPS call - handling centre. He said that another problem concerned police radio systems when working in a multi-agency environment, for which interim measures needed to be place.
26. Mr Ghaffur said that he also had responsibility for the security of the Olympics Games in London in 2012.
27. Following the 7 July bombings, Mr Ghaffur said that he had been asked by the Commissioner to put an initiative together to ensure the London communities did not fall out with each other. Having met the various communities, Mr. Ghaffur said that one thing became very clear to him, which was that across the board they all wanted to feel safe, traveling to and from home and work. Furthermore, they all wanted a police service that met their expectations and wanted to have a say in how they were policed. On that basis, Mr Ghaffur said, it became very simple to have discussion about the real problems in an open, face-to-face manner.

28. However, Mr Ghaffur said, the reality remained that although there were undoubtedly people still out there ready to do harm he was concerned about large numbers of people being criminalized by heightened security operations whilst the issue of radicalization was not being tackled. Mr Ghaffur said that a way had to be made for up-front, straightforward dialogue with communities and confidence building, which could be eroded by incidents like Stockwell and Forest Gate. The solution, he said, lay with the shared responsibilities of the police, the communities and their representatives.
29. Ms Tapsell said that there was a certain tension in the community and that her own son had recently been stopped and searched in the City under Section 44 of the Anti-Terrorism Act for nothing more than his Asian appearance. In relation to the radio communication issue, Ms Tapsell said that this matter had not been resolved since the King's Cross fire twenty years ago.
30. Canon Ivelaw Bowman said he regularly passed through Victoria Station and over a long period had observed police officers conducting a stop and searches. On every occasion he said that the person stopped was of Asian appearance and presumed to be a Muslim, as if there was no possibility of the person being a Hindu or a Farsi. Canon Bowman said something had to be done or there would be a return to the bad old days as in Brixton when black men were singled out. A member of the public added that he would be alarmed if, on emerging from Brixton tube, he were stopped under terrorism legislation on the basis of his ethnic appearance and another (a youth worker) expressed his concern about the impact of Stop and Search on young people and the manner in which it was carried out. He also asked how people could communicate with the police in respect of terrorism.
31. Abdul Sultan Virani said that he too spoke as a Muslim, one who had been living in England since 1957 and had raised two sons who were very grateful to the system of the country that allowed them to become educated professionals. He said that there was a need to communicate to Muslim communities their responsibilities in supporting those agencies that were charged with ensuring our safety and freedoms.
32. Shane Collins said that it was completely unacceptable for anyone to kill anyone whether it was from three feet or 30,000 feet away. And contradictory to Mr. Collins's view that there was no evidence-based analysis for 7/7 and what motivated homegrown terrorists, Mr. Collins said that the recruiting sergeant for Islamic extremists was the war in Iraq. Mr. Collins said that the police were in an extremely difficult position as on the one hand they were asking people to report suspicious activity while the same time trying to keep communities together. Similarly, he said that one couldn't use the politics of fear while hoping communities remain tolerant of each other. Mr. Collins said that he had severe doubts about the 7-point terrorism-policing plan being incorporated in Lambeth's regular, standard policing plan since it would promulgate the politics of fear and division and put the police in a difficult position.
33. In relation to stop and search, Mr Ghaffur said the Black Police Association was currently running an initiative whereby they actively go into communities and inform people of their rights. Furthermore, he said police training for Stop and Search required officers to show dignity and respect and, where possible, had to be intelligence led. As a police officer of thirty-two years, Mr Ghaffur said that he understood why there was a need to use Stop and Search as a tactic to disrupt, prevent or detect a particular type of crime. However, he said that the mandate was much better coming from the communities in some ways.
34. Mr Ghaffur said that he still believed that there was no evidence based causal analysis on what had motivated the British-born terrorists; the reality was that there were hundreds of angry young people in the community. Anger, he said made them vulnerable and easy to exploit, to the tipping point of doing something as drastic as what happened on 7 July 2006. He added that there were also people in the community who were prepared to groom such vulnerable people to engage in terrorism and that the challenge for the police was how not to compromise safety in the community. Whatever the injustices or prejudices, Mr Ghaffur said that it was not acceptable to commit atrocities.
35. In response to a question from Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market Traders Federation) concerning a Muslim market trader who was being abused as 'Al Quaida', Mr. Ghaffur said that such abuse should be reported and that mechanism for third party reporting of such offences was being investigated.
36. As an example of what could be done to ensure open dialogue in Lambeth, John Roberts said that following 7 July, Martin Bridger got together the faith groups and engaged with them as they did with each other.
37. Superintendent Sutherland added that the first line of communication around terrorist issues should be through the Safer Neighbourhood Police teams and that he had briefed all the teams on these aspects of their work.
38. Borough Commander Martin Bridger said that whatever the reasons were for committing the atrocities last year, the fact remained that they had

had an impact on communities and there was question about what those communities wanted the police to do. Mr. Bridger also asked about the role and backgrounds of Imams within mosques and whether they engaged with the youths, and what changes could be seen in young Muslims that could help identify radicalization. Mr. Bridger said that one of the alleged failed suicide bombers of 22 July had lived in Lambeth and attended a mosque in the borough. Mr. Bridger asked what the police needed to look for in identifying those who would be prepared to do such a thing, and what mechanisms could be put in place for people to talk to the police.

39. Mr Ghaffur said that some people had a warped view about religion and he was concerned about the intolerance welling up. Mr. Ghaffur said that in talking truthfully he had received hundreds of letters, some thanking him for saying what he had said, some expressing extreme hate for what he had said and others, thankfully, the majority, seeking a structured debate.

40. In response to Toaha Quereshi, Mr Ghaffur said that in terms of whom was listening to the Muslim community the MPS had, at senior level, a number of consultation mechanisms including the MPA, the Muslim Safety Forum and the Independent Advisory Groups, as well as community level groups such as CPCGs. In answer to Mr. Quereshi on the need for resources for new community projects, Mr Ghaffur said that these had to make a proper business case for how to approach and address the issue. . However, Mr. Ghaffur commended Mr. Quereshi for the work he did and thanked faith groups for the work that they did also.

41. Wesley Stephenson said that from what he understood gangs coming to Britain from Bulgaria and Romania would be extreme and harsh, the likes of which we haven't seen before, and living between these organized criminal gangs and the threat of terrorism would make life very difficult.

42. Mr Ghaffur said that there had been threat assessments made on organized crime and there were substantial resources in the MPS to deal with criminal networks, some of which could be shared.

43. Mr. Stephenson also expressed his concerns about the Third Sector, which was being crippled by lack of resources to the detriment of a sustained multi-agency approach. Mr. Stephenson said that something needed to be done to underpin projects in place.

44. Simon Harding said that it was recognised that volunteering played a major role in Lambeth and that the Third Sector in the borough had suffered over the years. However, Mr. Harding said that there were discussions at a very senior level in the

Executive of Lambeth Council about reaching and extending the role of the voluntary sector in Lambeth.

45. In terms of the aftermath of a terrorist attack and how the local authority would pick up and deal with issues Mr. Harding said that should, for example, a plane fall on the borough the Council had a fairly well rehearsed programme to deal with events. Mr. Harding said that the Council was currently reviewing its critical incidents procedures and that he would report to the Group on the progress made.

46. Catriona Robertson asked Supt. Sutherland for some reassurance that the effect of the Seven Point Programme would not be to close down conversation with members of the Muslim community, who may feel they were being viewed as extremists. Ms Robertson also asked to talk to John Roberts about some faith awareness training, which would be useful.

47. Raising the issue of immediate post incident action David Tomlinson said that following an incident the lack of information and not being able to find out what had happened via television, radio, or use of telephone created panic and fear. After that, he said it was important to quickly establish a sense of normality. People should not be subjected to unnecessarily prolonged states of emergency. Mr. Tomlinson said he wanted reassurance from the police that they understood that effect and the need to counteract anxiety.

48. Cllr. Graham Pycock said that he was very concerned about the Seven Point Plan, which he thought was vague, particularly in failing to recognize what was happening at ground level. Cllr. Pycock said that Lambeth was not in the same position as parts of the north of England where people lived separate lives. Here in Lambeth children and young people felt unconnected to their community. Cllr. Pycock said that he wanted to know if it was clear that the police's role was operational and he was concerned about their disparate initiatives to engage people, which was a job for bodies such as the local Council.

49. In the context of policing terrorism, Paul Andell said there was a need to get the balance right in terms of community harm reduction, which included council enforcement, situational prevention, education and community development and not community control.

50. Jim Toohill said that there was a need to recognize the factors, which could inhibit people from supporting counter-terrorism measures. Specifically he felt that the police needed to demonstrate the levels of s44 terrorism Stop and Search was in any way justified or productive, given the extremely low arrest rates, that the reluctance of people opposed to

UK foreign policy objectives to be involved in counter-terrorism initiatives (should they be portrayed as part of a broader 'war on terrorism') had to be recognized and that the MPA needed to be clear whether it was representing Londoners to the MPS or the MPS to Londoners. In respect of the latter point, he cited the MPA's request to the Attorney General to drop the prosecution of the Office of the Commissioner under Health and Safety legislation following the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes.

51. Toaha Quereshi said that he had said to the Council years ago to get out of their offices and engage with community. Citing the message he and Martin Bridger had heard in Pakistan's 'back yard' during their visit there, Mr. Quereshi said that the perception was that western society was trying to destroy Islam and while it should have been done a long time ago, he said that now resources were needed to improve community engagement.

52. Supt. Sutherland said that if he had not been clear in explaining the two way dialogue he said it was a two way process giving an opportunity to feedback

53. John Roberts asked everyone present to fill in a CPCG's questionnaire that had been tabled. He said that hopefully the responses would add to recommendations in the MPA's final report which would be available in February 2007.

54. Andy Hull, MPA, said that the Lambeth meeting on policing on terrorism would part of a jigsaw consisting of 34 similar meetings happening all over London. Furthermore, hearings had also taken place with young people, councillors, business and tourism representatives, faith groups with further meetings were planned with women, Asian men and police and government representatives. Then, all the findings would be put together in one report. The objective was that anyone who wanted to engage in the public debate would be able to do so.

55. Ms Tapsell said that she would be pleased if the recommendations of the reports into 7 July bombings were implemented, a whole list of things including issues of communication and the needs of people who find themselves caught up in a terrorist attack. She said the recommendations were quite practical and if the MPA could not do that, it was no use asking people how they felt about counter terrorism.

56. In respect of recommendations from the MPA's Stop and Search Scrutiny, John Roberts said that it had taken four years to implement half the recommendations because there were over 30,000

police officers and one recommendation was that they should all be trained in customer services.

57. Cllr. Lorna Campbell said that she wanted to reassure everyone that the Council was taking community engagement very seriously and that there was a big culture shift underway in respect of how the Council worked. She said that one of the things she was doing was getting council officers out of the town hall and into the community. She added that she didn't believe in the term 'hard to reach' people, rather it was matter of how to reach them. In this respect, one of the ways of doing so was by using technology in a constructive way.

58. Ms Tapsell thanked Asst. Commissioner Ghaffur , John Roberts, Alistair Sutherland for their participation in the discussion.

59. Lambeth Police Report

60. The Lambeth CPCG monthly police report for October, produced by the Lambeth Police Performance & Review Unit, was circulated prior to meeting and copies were tabled.

61. Mr. Bridger said that the figures showed a downward trend in robbery, theft from motor vehicle and gun enabled crime although the number burglaries had risen, albeit the increase was slowing.

62. Mr. Bridger said that compared to the same period last year, there had been 2,594 fewer notifiable offences reported, which meant another significant reduction in terms of a yearly basis.

63. In relation to the arrest of aggressive drug dealers under the No Deal initiative, Mr. Bridger said that there had been some success but not as much as he would have liked.

64. Mr. Bridger expressed his concerns about the number of murders that had occurred in the borough during the past twelve months.

65. Mr. Bridger reminded the Group of his priority to reduce gun crime. Despite the good work of individuals previous campaigns and projects had been wasteful and uncoordinated. Following a highly critical report, a unique new approach, the Lambeth Gun Crime Consortium was now established and the intervention programmes being put in place were totally and uniquely community owned, which was what the community had asked for and was where the responsibility needed to lay.

66. All that said, Mr. Bridger said there were still incidents occurring, like the recent, unconnected, shootings outside the Fridge and in McDonald's in Brixton. The Fridge incident had involved two

Vietnamese victims and the McDonald's incident concerned two 17 year old black youths shot in broad daylight. Mr. Bridger said that arrests had been made following the McDonald's shooting. With regards to the Fridge, Mr. Bridger said there was a possibility of the club being closed because of its inadequate safety regime.

67. Mr. Bridger said that a Stop and Search Scrutiny had done some excellent work with young people from all communities, listening to and engaging with young people on stop and search issues, while Lambeth Youth Council trained new officers to the borough. He said that Supt Alistair Sutherland had begun a new initiative around Stop and Search in

68. Michael Watson (a youth worker) said that there were too many young people out there with nothing to do and who did not respect themselves, and so there was no way they would respect anybody else. Mr. Watson commended the police for how they dealt with the aftermath of the McDonald's shooting.

69. With regard to the Phoenix Project, Mr. Bridger said that one of the problems in the past had been the sustainability around continued support for the voluntary sector but hopefully that would be addressed. Presently, Mr. Bridger said that police were now sharing quite sensitive police intelligence with the local authority youth service, which had culturally once been a difficult thing for the police to do. He added that the Council had reciprocated, which enriched the intelligence around individuals.

70. In response to Rod Brown, Mr. Bridger said that in the past for those looking at organized crime, gun supply had not been one of their priorities. However, the Gun Consortium had flagged up the issue at national level. In relation to street dealing and drug supply, Mr. Bridger said that Supt. Low was engaging with other departments within the MPS to try and move it on from just the street drug dealer.

71. Canon Bowman proposed that the police should consider giving community spokespersons some kind of identification so that if they arrive at crime scene they could be identified and informed about what had occurred and assist the police. Mr. Bridger said that he would take Canon Bowman's suggestion as an action. Recently, he said that a member of the community intervened in a situation and was misinterpreted by the police officers leading to the individual's arrest when in fact the intervention was helpful.

72. Borough Commander to action identification protocol

73. In response to a Gipsy Hill resident's concerns about the apparent lack of officers in the area, particularly around the train station, Supt. Jonathan Tottman said that the local Inspector was acutely aware of the

issues in the area. However, Supt. Tottman said that one issue for him was to ensure that the local officers and Safer Neighbourhood teams were visible. Mr. Tottman said that his sub-command bordered two other boroughs and he was very conscious that they were not as engaged as he would like and he would be contacting their opposite numbers.

74. Canon Bowman expressed his gratitude to Supt. Paul Wilson for chairing the Peace Week Working Party, the outcome being a moving and well-attended inter-faith memorial service at St Andrew's.

75. In response to Paul Andell, Mr. Bridger said that, in respect of accountability, the police continued to learn and were active in training officers on the importance of community confidence. With regard to No Deal, Mr. Bridger said there was no trickery around the stop and search success rate, since it was the same people who kept coming back. He added that the Group's involvement in any future work the police did would be welcome.

76. Call Darren Sanders said that, in a number of respects, the tabled statistical police report appeared to show rising trends in notified offences since April and that he had concerns around the detection rates for the financial year to date.

77. Martin Bridger responded that, on a period for period comparison between this year and last, the borough was in fact doing well in terms of numbers of offences. He said that in relation to detections there were whole range of reasons that affect the detection rate and a whole number of people under investigation and witness statements being taken currently that had yet to be translated into detection. Mr. Bridger said that it was necessary to look at the figures at the end of the financial year to get the true picture.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6. 30 p.m. TUESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2006
West Indian Ex-Service Men's Club,
Clapham Manor Street

Lambeth Community-Police Consultative Group
Unit 58 Euro link Business Centre, 49 Effra Road
London SW2 1BZ,
T: 020 7733 0878 E: admin@lambethcpcg.org.uk
F: 020 7274 7623 W: www.lambethcpcg.org.uk