

**Karibu Centre  
57 Gresham Road SW9**

**9 January 2007**

**PRESENT: CPCG BOARD:** Paul Andell (Ind. Memb.), Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Canon Ivelaw Bowman (Ind. Memb.), Shane Collins (Ind. Member), Gill Kenealy (Ind. Memb.), Cheryl Sealey (Ind. Memb.), Paul Reynolds (Herne Hill Society), Jim Toohill (Victim Support) **COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY:** Nick Abengowe (Herne Hill Forum), Rod Brown (Lambeth Leaseholders Forum), Wally Channon (Clapham Town N'hood Watch), Elizabeth Gibson (Churches together in Clapham), Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market Traders Association), Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club), The Most Rev. Dr. Bancroft McCarthy, Phyllis Jackson (HMP Brixton, Independent Monitoring Board), Brian Mantell (Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen) David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.), Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road Residents Assoc.) **MEMBERSHIP INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:** Peter Harris, Lena James, Richard Moore, **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: LAMBETH COUNCIL:** Cllr. Pav Akhtar, Cllr. Florence Nosegbe, Cllr. Rachel Heywood, Cllr. Darren Sanders, Cllr. Clare Whelan, Megan Jones (Lambeth DAAT) **METROPOLITAN POLICE AUTHORITY:** John Roberts **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Ch. Supt Martin Bridger QPM (Borough Commander), Det. Supt. John Corrigan, Supt. Stewart Low, Det. Ch. Insp. Steve Ainscough, Det. Insp. Mick Gallagher, Sgt. Ronnie Whelan **SECRETARIAT:** Ben McKendrick

**Apologies:** Kingdley Abrams, Supt. Ellie Bird (BTP), Greta Brookes, Rowena Estwick, Neil Flanigan, Robert Holden, Teresa Israel, Ros Munday, Yvone Okiyo, Sally Rance, Abdul Sultan Virani, Anna Tapsell, Peggy Tyler, Cathy Valentine, John Wainwright, Jane Warwick, Jacob Whittingham

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

**Information from Board/Group Members**

- 1 The Group congratulated and applauded Ch. Supt. Martin Bridger upon being informed the Chair of the meeting, Paul Andell, that he had been awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the New Year's Honours List. Mr Bridger thanked

everyone he had met during his career who had helped him to achieve his aims.

**Minutes of the Meeting 5 December 2005**

- 2 The Minutes of the Meeting were accepted with the following amendments.  
Add Rod Brown to Apologies.
- 3 Add to Para 50. Last line. 'Mr Cox said that there was no provision for administrative costs such as postage stamps'.

**Matters Arising**

- 4 ***In relation to ID cards for community spokespersons, Mr Bridger said that he would discuss the matter with the Group's Board at its next meeting before bringing any proposals to the wider Group [Minute 1, 05/12/06].***
- 5 With regard to Lambeth police's detection rate, Mr Bridger said that it had improved greatly over the past four months and was one of the best across the MPS [Minute 2, 05/12/06].
- 6 John Roberts said that between April to October 2006, the MPS had received 1.4 million calls with 81% of calls answered within ten seconds (target 90%) with sustained improvement to the time taken to answer 999 calls evident since October when 91% of calls were answered within target time. Further to issues concerning MetCall, John Roberts gave the Group's administration a guide concerning when to call 999 and situations where the local police should be called instead (see attached) [Minute 47, 05/12/06].

**Lambeth Police Report**

- 7 Mr Bridger gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lambeth Police performance for the year to date. (see attached). (The statistical police report was tabled.)
- 8 Mr Bridger said that in that over the last twenty-one months Lambeth police's performance in terms of crime reduction, upon which the Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) was measured, had seen 6,703 less victims. He added that the

- borough's performance was probably the best in London and whilst he accepted that there was under-reporting, he felt that the same could be said for all boroughs.
- 9 Mr Bridger said that he had written to the Leader of the Council (Cllr Steve Reid) setting out his views in respect of the issue of Council Wardens and Police Community Support Officers. He added that how those views have been reported was a matter out of his hands.
- 10 Mr Bridger said that throughout December there had been a concentrated effort in Brixton Town Centre with an increase in the number of police officers patrolling to tackle drug dealers. Supt. Stewart Low added that there had been excellent feedback from the public and while the increase could not be sustained for much longer police would try to keep a core of officers who were familiar with the public in the area.
- 11 With regard to murder of Anton Smith, Mr Bridger said that he applauded the local community for coming forward and assisting police and for the way they spoke out against gun crime at Mr Smith's funeral the previous week.
- 12 Mr Bridger said that he would be meeting with the local authority and community members the following day to discuss plans for Brixton Splash 2007, a repeat of a similar event held last year in Brixton Town Centre. Mr Bridger said that the event would take place on 5 August 2007.
- 13 Supt. Paul Wilson said that the Peace Week Steering Group, which included Canon Ivelaw Bowman and Cheryl Sealey, was looking at ideas for activities, especially for young people, during the whole month of September 2007. Supt. Wilson said that if anyone had ideas for the period, the Steering Group would welcome them.
- 14 Stuart Horwood thanked Mr Bridger and Supt. Low for their support in tackling the drug dealers around Brixton Market but said that there had to be a constant police presence without having to rely on major police operations.
- 15 Supt. Low said that he was grateful to Mr Horwood regarding his advice about the market while the police were learning from the intelligence gather by Det. Insp. Mick Gallagher's team. Mr Bridger added that police had used a cocktail of tactics, including undercover officers, and that there had been significant arrests, with some those arrested up for deportation.
- 16 A member of the public said that the police activity in the town centre had pushed drug dealers towards the area where she lived, in the vicinity of the Moorlands Estate. She that young people were causing problems but police did nothing. She added that one police officer had laughed in her face and that police had said they could not be seen to be picking on children.
- 17 Mr Bridger said that the displacement of criminals was always a challenging issue and intervening in an appropriate way could take time. In relation to addressing loutish behaviour, Mr Bridger said that Lambeth had been slow off the mark in tackling anti-social behaviour but that extra money had been put aside to do so while four people had been employed, by the Council, to handle Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.
- 18 With regard to police behaviour, Mr Bridger said members of the public who felt aggrieved by a police officers behaviour should use the complaints procedure, as it was the right thing to do.
- 19 A young black male said that he did not like the approach the police took towards youths and that he been stopped and searched at gunpoint. In response, Mr Bridger said that police needed to know what people thought about them and that he would speak to the youth outside of the meeting. However, he said that if a person was not charged they would not have a criminal record. He added that officers were constantly reminded that stop and searches should be intelligence led although they sometimes got it wrong.
- 20 With regard to the same drug dealers returning to Brixton Town Centre after having been arrested, Richard Moore said that there was a need for a debate involving the Crown Prosecution Service and the courts. Mr Bridger said that the wider criminal justice system could not be forgotten in terms of the prosecution and conviction of drug dealers and that the buck did not always stop with the police.
- 21 Kelly ben Maimon, speaking as Chair of Hillmead School Governors, reported that the

- Head Teacher had been approached by a police officer seeking favourable comments in respect of Safer Neighbourhood Teams. For her part Ms ben Maimon said that people in her ward did not know who their Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) were or how to contact them while shopkeepers on Coldharbour Lane were angry at the low level of police activity. She asked if the SN Team's shift times could be made available. Ms ben Maimon also questioned the use of thirty-seven CCTV cameras on Moorlands Estate. She added that she would write to the MPS Commissioner with her issues.
- 22 Mr Bridger said that as far as he was aware the message from the Business Forum was that the shopkeepers were pleased with progress being made. With regard to the approach to the Head Teacher, he understood that the visit had been cancelled and said that Supt Paul Wilson would follow up with a more detailed conversation.
- 23 Questioning the stop and search figures for No Deal in the previous month, John Howard said that the 42% described as 'other' for the reason for arrest, appeared to blandly justify the numbers of stops. In response, Supt. Low said that it would be useful to look at the data for some clarity, which Sgt. Ronnie Whelan said was available and a supplementary could be produced.
- 24 Paul Andell said that the stop and search figures were of concern to all but that they were independently scrutinised. In respect of the 42% cited as 'other' for the reason for a stop, Mr Andell proposed that this was due to a lag in the time of categorising crimes.
- 25 ***Jim Toohill said that the Stop and Search Monitoring Group had not reported for some time. Mr Toohill said that the Group need to think about whether it should hold a special meeting to discuss stop and search particularly in view of the impact it on young people and the arrest rate for No Deal.***
- 26 In respect of CCTV in Lambeth, Mr Bridger said that it was insufficient and improved systems were required. He added that a Council report was due in a month's time and that there would be significant investment in CCTV for the borough.
- 27 With regard to CCTV cameras on Moorlands, Lloyd Leon said he thought that they would be the responsibility of Metropolitan Housing Trust. He added that at one time the Council's CCTV system used to be monitored and breakages reported, and he was glad to hear that there would be some new investment.
- 28 On drug dealing in Brixton Market, Mr Leon said that he had often seen drug dealers hiding in shops and even drugs being offered inside. Mr Leon said that he did not whether shopkeepers were sheltering drug dealers out of duress, having to pay protection money or in league with dealers.
- 29 Canon Bowman concurred with Mr Leon, and in relation to Coldharbour Lane, said that although it may not be where the community wanted it to be in terms of community safety, it was nothing like it used to be and things were moving in the right direction.
- 30 Det. Insp. Mick Gallagher said that he had not received any intelligence about dealing in shops around Brixton Market but he would look into it. He added that a system for the community to pass information onto police was needed.
- 31 As a result of covert surveillance, Det. Insp. Gallagher said a number of Jamaican women, seemingly operating with impunity, had been arrested for their involvement in drug dealing.
- 32 Shane Collins commented on the low detection rate of 6.2% for domestic burglary. He said that a woman neighbour of his had been burgled six times in nine months and had decided to move out.
- 33 Mr Bridger said that last year's detection rate for burglary was 20%, but this was largely due to one person admitting to 186 offences. He recognised that the detection rate was low relative to other boroughs and that there was need for improvement. Mr Bridger said that police could not solely rely on people admitting to crimes and that they needed intelligence. He added that he was confident the detection rate would be higher by the end of March.
- 34 Det. Supt. John Corrigan said that once the evidence was handed over to the CPS they often chose to prosecute burglars for handling stolen goods.

- 35 Regarding repeat victims of burglary, Mr Bridger said that police undertook a whole range of support including crime prevention advice and victim support

### Metropolitan Police Authority Update

- 36 John Roberts said that the MPA Drugs Scrutiny started in September last year and introduced the MPA Policy Officer for the Scrutiny, Fauzia Ashraf-Malik, Its results would be presented at a Scrutiny Review to the Home Office in March, at the same time as the National Drugs Strategy would be published as part of the National Policing Plan

### Drugs in Lambeth

- 37 Megan Jones, Lambeth Drug and Alcohol Action Team Coordinator and Det. Supt. Corrigan gave a PowerPoint presentation on Drugs in Lambeth (see attached).
- 38 Ms Jones said that the Safer Lambeth Partnership was made up, amongst others, of the local authority, Lambeth police and Lambeth Primary Care Trust. As such, she said her presentation would concentrate on the non-police side of the Partnership. Ms Jones said the National Drugs Strategy urged agencies to focus on drugs that did most harm i.e. crack cocaine and heroin, and success was measured in terms of people on treatment programmes.
- 39 Ms Jones said that prevention work with young people for over twenty-five years had shown that it was not necessarily the best solution and that helping drug users to reduce the harm which they did to themselves was more realistic.
- 40 Ms Jones said that, in attempting to assess the scale of the problem in the borough, police data on reported crime could be misleading since it only directly classified two types of crime as 'drug crime' (broadly dealing and possession), whereas most drug related crime is acquisitive driven by drugs. Moreover, she pointed out, reported crime rates for drug offences were often as much a measure of police activity as underlying rates of offending. She did present police reported crime data which distinguished supply from possession and was categorized by type of drugs, demonstrating a high skew to

Class A drugs for supply, but to Class C (cannabis) for possession.

- 41 She suggested that the most authoritative estimate was that produced annually by Glasgow University, which suggested that there were in Lambeth approximately 5,000 problem drug users of whom 1,700 (34%) are in treatment in any one year, whilst a larger number (43%) are 'known to treatment'.
- 42 Megan Jones described the Partnership's activities as falling into four main areas. Treatment, Young People, Reducing Crime and Reducing Supply. She suggested that work with Young People could form an area for presentation in its own right, and her presentation concentrated on Treatment, Reducing Crime, Reducing Supply.
- 43 Ms Jones illustrated the links between drugs and acquisitive crime with the statistics which showed that the 'trigger' offending rate for heroin and crack users was six times that for offending no-drug users, whilst crack and heroin users accounted for less than a quarter of those arrested but 60% of acquisitive crime (national figures).
- 44 Turning to Treatment, which it was suggested showed a return of £9.50 total cost saving for every £1 spent, Ms Jones gave a brief account of the variety of treatment options operating in the borough, and dealt in some detail with the Drugs Intervention Programme, whereby individuals arrested for certain 'trigger' offences are mandatorily saliva tested for cocaine or opiates. Thereafter, for those testing positive, there is a route into treatment, with statutory obligations for assessment and compliance. Ms Jones cited evidence that coercion into treatment was as effective as voluntary entry, in reducing offending.
- 45 Specifically, she presented data for Lambeth for the first three quarters of 2006/7, demonstrating that almost all of those arrested for trigger offences were tested, that over 40% tested positive (overwhelmingly for crack, or crack and other drugs) and that over 60% of those testing positive entered structured treatment.
- 46 Supt. Corrigan gave an account of what police were doing in partnership with others which involved an assessment of drugs intelligence, which was shown to be good as demonstrated

- by the attrition rate i.e. addresses searched, detections, and cash, drugs, weapons and faked documents seized.
- 47 Quoting the Attorney General from two years ago, Supt. Corrigan said that for each person using one kilo of heroin generated a social cost of £200,000 in terms of crime. He also said that while cannabis was not a priority drug it did have links with the crack market.
- 48 Supt. Corrigan said that the diverse communities of Lambeth were concerned about drugs in the community and Safer Neighbourhood teams were becoming more involved in dealing with the issue. He added that 46% of those arrested in the borough over drug offences were not Lambeth residents.
- 49 Supt. Corrigan said that while the police needed to become more sophisticated in tackling drugs and, although the situation would not change overnight, they were getting there. With more experienced officers coming into Lambeth they would become more and more proactive in going after the drug supply. He added that the borough needed a reputation that people do not come to Lambeth for drugs.
- 50 Supt. Corrigan said that all organisations had to pull together in the same direction to reduce drug crime and that the community could help by giving the police information.
- 51 In response to Fernando Senior, Supt. Corrigan said that to help cut off the supply of drugs, police would work with the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and international partners. Det Insp. Gallagher added that police regularly intercepted heroin and crack coming into Lambeth, and agreed that supply was not necessarily an ethnic issue.
- 52 In response to Mr Leon, Ms Jones said that the Partnership did work with registered social landlords who were encouraged to improve their properties. In respect of the number of people cured of addiction, Ms Jones that it was difficult to measure but abstinence from drugs was generally low although the target for being in drug treatment for three months or more was 82%.
- 53 John Howard said that whilst presentation was excellent and the police were becoming more sophisticated he was still regularly being stopped in Brixton by drug dealers trying to sell him skunk.
- 54 Supt. Corrigan said that drugs impacted on many crimes with 60-80% of acquisitive crime committed by drug addicts. He said that street robberies had been reduced from 900 per month three years ago to around 250 per month at present and a similar sort of reduction could apply to drug crime with more operations, intelligence and evidence gathering and the use of ASBOs to stop those involved with drugs from coming to Lambeth.
- 55 In response to Lena James, Ms Jones said that drug treatment figures reflected very broadly the diversity of the community, and that the black community was accessing treatment.
- 56 In response to Cheryl Sealey, Supt. Corrigan said that he was not aware of any intelligence of people being deported from the USA coming to Lambeth and that information on drugs, guns and other matters was shared between the various levels e.g. SOCA and Operation Trident.
- 57 David Tomlinson said that he understood that dealers who supplied drugs to prostitutes in Suffolk were from Lambeth. Det. Insp. Gallagher said that the MPS was liaising with Ipswich police about criminal networks in Lambeth supplying the counties.
- 58 Shane Collins said that the British Crime Survey showed that 3.5 million people were taking drug, 90% of whom used cannabis. Mr Collins said that stopping the supply of drugs would push prices up and cause more crime. He added the best way to cut crime was to provide heroin addicts with heroin as a gateway to other treatment.
- 59 Ms Jones said that methadone given as a heroin substitute needed be taken only twice a day, would require four or five injections of heroin each day, which would mean addicts attending hospital that many times. She added that hospitals would not give addicts a day's supply of injectable heroin to take away. Ms Jones said that there was no substitute medication for crack.
- 60 In response to Cllr. Florence Nosegbe concerning a communication strategy to relay information back to the community, Supt Corrigan said that SN teams, many of which

had identified drugs as a problem in their ward, would be one channel. Mr Bridger said that the Safer Lambeth Partnership was not as good at communications as it should be.

- 61 Elaine Holness, Director of the Karibu Centre, said that Lambeth had been damaged by drugs and the young people wanted to be able to play in a safe environment. She said that assets seized from drugs dealers should be given to the community by way of restorative justice, and asked for help from the Partnership. Gil Kenealy said that by putting money into the Karibu Centre and the work that it did with young people would show that there were other paths which young people could take.
- 62 Supt. Corrigan said that assets seized from criminals were kept by the Treasury. However, a bid could be made by police for them, but for no more than 10%, which had to be used for purchasing operational equipment.
- 63 In response to Tom Howarth, who said that raiding night clubs such as the Fridge and the seizure of ecstasy tablets could lead to people taking stronger drugs, such as 'Crystal Meth', [a form of methamphetamine] which had a longer lasting effect and could be taken before people went out to clubs so that they did not have to carry drugs on their person, Supt. Corrigan said that ecstasy was an illegal Class A drug.
- 64 In response to Gil Kenealy, Ms Jones said that there were specific services for young people with drug problems, although more could be done in respect of child and adolescent mental health. She also said that work had been commissioned to look at how young people were recruited into drug crime and what could be done about it.
- 65 John Roberts said that the DAAT and police were doing a lot of good work in pubs and clubs in terms of education around drugs.
- 66 Mr Toohill asked if any of the measures used (the Glasgow data, police crime figures, the DIP data), gave indication of whether the problem in Lambeth was getting better or worse.
- 67 In response, Ms Jones said that tracking data measurements were not used in a consistent way although Dip Data (see attachment) was useful. This was the first year in which the Glasgow data had been produced. National

data, she added, showed that the use of heroin was going down but there had been a rise in the use of crack.

- 68 Paul Andell closed the debate by saying that there were many strategies that were being used to approach the problem of but that community safety in terms of drugs had to be by consent.

### Any Other Business

- 69 Lena James said that during the Christmas period she was in a shop in East Street in Southwark which was displaying toy guns on the counter. After speaking with the shop owner, Ms James said that the toys were removed out of sight.
- 70 In response to Mr Andell, Mr Bridger said that said that reasonable force could be used by anyone according to the prevailing circumstances. In respect of this, Supt. Corrigan added that each case was judged on its merits.
- 71 Discussion, concerning a particular arrest in Lambeth, did not take place since the matter was being investigated by the MPS Professional Standards Unit and was '*sub judice*'.
- 72 ***Mr Andell proposed that the Group hold a discussion about the use of police dogs at a future meeting.***

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6. 30 p.m. TUESDAY, 6 February 2007

South London Liberal Synagogue  
Prentis Road, Streatham SW16

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