

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

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell - Chairperson, Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Shane Collins, Gill Kenealy (Ind. Membs.), Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Paul Reynolds (Herne Hill Society), Wesley Stephenson (Your Story), Jim Toohill (Victim Support Lambeth), Abdul Sultan Virani (Lambeth Pensioners' Forum), **COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP:** Nick Abengowe (Herne Hill Forum), Rod Brown (Lambeth Leaseholders Forum), David Corderoy (Lambeth Chamber of Commerce), Neil Flanigan (West Indian Ex-Servicemen/Ex-Service Women Assoc.), Stuart Horwood, John Horrocks (Brixton Market Traders Assoc.), Brian Mantell (Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen, David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park Residents' Assoc.), Kathy White (Tulse Hill Tenants' & Residents' Assoc.) **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:** Peter Harris, Lena James, Richard Moore **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP:** Lloyd Leon (Lambeth ICVs), John Roberts MPA **LAMBETH COUNCIL:** Cllr. Lorna Campbell **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE:** Brgh. Cmdr. Martin Bridger, Supt. Stewart Low, Supt. Paul Wilson, Ch. Insp. Patrick Beynon **SECRETARIAT**

VISITORS SIGNING IN: Z. Bradley, Cllr. Jeremy Clyne, Idoya D'Cruze, Alan Davidson, M. G. Hassan, P. A. Hoad, John Howard, Abdul Kadir, M. A. Khan, Cllr. D. Morris, Yvonne Okiyo, Brian Parker, Cllr. Graham Pycock, Catriona Robertson, Keith Shaw,

APOLOGIES: Paul Andell, Cllr. Mark Bennett, Cllr. Rachel Heywood, Insp. Ian Mixter (BTP), Ros Munday, Fernando Senior

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

Information from Board/Group

1 A CPCG Board briefing paper had been circulated.

2

Minutes of the Meeting 4 April 2007

3 The Minutes of the Meeting 4 April 2007 were accepted with the following amendments:

4 add Doye Akinlade to those present.

5 Minute 40 to read: 'John Howard said that he was sceptical about restorative justice, which did not have a high take-up,...'

atters Arising

6 ***Richard Moore reiterated the need to discuss and examine further the issue of school exclusions*** [Minute 58, 03/04/07].

Lambeth Police Report

7 Brgh. Cmdr. Martin Bridger gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lambeth police performance for the year to date, and events since the last Group meeting (see attached). The statistical police report was tabled.

8 Mr Bridger said that the last financial year had been outstanding with 3100 fewer victims of crime than the previous year and 6916 fewer over the past two years. Due to this success, Mr Bridger said that it was becoming more and more difficult to improve upon existing targets but police would continue to push for further improvement.

9 In response to concerns expressed about statistic for the arrest and sanctioned detection rate for domestic violence and rape, Mr Bridger said that while domestic violence detection were on the increase police were not arresting enough offenders and needed to do better.

10 With regard to rape offences, Mr Bridger said that numbers of recorded were not all corroborated by the victims, usually street sex workers yet they remained on record as recorded crime.

11 In response to John Howard, Det. Supt. John Corrigan said that there were about 40-50 incidents of domestic violence per week with an average of around 50% arrest rate. Mr Corrigan said the low was partly due to cultural reasons, whereby some cultures find domestic violence acceptable, and also finding the suspect has left the scene when police arrive.

12 In respect of burglary, Mr Bridger said that it was a difficult crime to detect and more improvement was needed in terms of forensics and a better understanding of *modus operandi*. Similarly, he said motor vehicle crime, i.e. theft from cars, was very difficult to detect.

13 Mr Moore said that *Help the Aged* provided locks for the elderly to help combat residential burglary.

14 In relation to reporting crime, Anna Tapsell said that a way had to found to encourage and support people who wanted to come forward with information. Mr Bridger agreed and suggested that a group should be constituted to look into the question of community responsibility and giving information.

15 On 28 April, Mr Bridger said that police raided the Fire Night Club in Vauxhall where large quantities

- of drugs and money were found, Mr Bridger said that the club's management had voluntarily agreed to close down the business for three weeks and had signed up to new licensing conditions.
- 16 Shane Collins queried the graphs shown in the monthly statistical report [dispatched before the meeting and tabled] asking (1) why the detection rate for Domestic Violence was persistently low and (2) for an explanation of the rapidly rising offences for drugs possession, contrasted with a relatively static rate for trafficking.
- 17 In response to Mr Collins, Mr Bridger said that the rise in possession offences reflected a tightening up on 'housekeeping' in claiming sanctioned detections.
- 18 Stuart Horwood congratulated the police on the results for 2006/7 but asked what more could be done to ensure a consistent level of policing in Brixton Town Centre.
- 19 Lloyd Leon also offered his congratulations, saying that he believed that credit should always be given where it was due.
- 20 Paul Reynolds asked (1) to what extent Indices of Social Deprivation – now published by the Office of National Statistics on a very fine scale called Seper Output Levels – were used in planning the allocation of police and partnership resources, (2) what the police view was of proposals to re-jig Safer Neighbourhood Panels emerging from Lambeth First's 'Communities First' initiative and (3) what were the plans for 'no-drinking zones' in the borough.
- 21 Jim Toohill queried the figures shown to demonstrate the impact of the yellow signs. He said that according to the borough figures given on the MPS website, of those crime types which the yellow signs might be expected to impact on, only theft from motor vehicles showed a significant decline – January to February. Robbery and other forms of theft were, if anything, up.
- 22 While Mr Moore said that he supported the use of yellow crime reduction signs warning of street robbers operating in particular areas, John Howard said that they contributed to fear of crime, particularly for the elderly who found it difficult to get out in the evenings. Richard Moore also asked for more detail in respect of media reports of an Art College being engaged to redesign police uniforms; he felt there were perhaps higher spending priorities.
- 23 Mr Corrigan defended the use of the yellow signs saying that their presence had managed to reduce crime during a period which it historically rose, even if it only led to a 6% reduction.
- 24 John Roberts said that the redesigning of police uniforms was a matter of design for specific purposes rather than a wholesale change to look of the uniform, and was directed at certain functional units within MPS, not service-wide.
- 25 Simon Harding, LBL Asst. Director for Community safety said that while crime was reducing fear of crime, which was very difficult to tackle, was lagging behind. Mr Harding said the Safer Lambeth Partnership needed to have a better handle on measuring fear of crime and that it was anticipated that commissioned town centre surveys and a series of focus groups would provide qualitative information.
- 26 Mr Harding said that some measures had already been identified to help reduce the fear of crime such as an initial £4 million to improve street lighting, the creation of an Anti-Social Behaviour team and better communicating of crime reduction.
- 27 Mr Harding said that one of the visual aspects that gave rise to the fear of crime was the plethora of shop shutters which not only gave an impression of being a crime zone but which also invited graffiti.
- 28 Lloyd Leon said that he thought it would be better if the surveys into fear of crime were conducted on Lambeth estates rather than town centres; an environment in which people felt much safer.
- 29 Mr Leon's comment was echoed by a member of the public who said that she and others on her estate were fearful of gangs of youths gathering. She added that a hand grenade and four guns had been found on her estate. She insisted that any fear of crime survey should take into account the views of those living on estates.
- 30 David Tomlinson suggested that one means of measuring fear of crime, always overlooked, was the actions people took to avoid being a victim of crime. For example, he said that upon police advice people had avoided a certain street and as a result crime had diminished. The cost, and the

- measure of the fear of crime, was in the extent to which people had curtailed their own freedoms.
- 31 A Muslim elder from Streatham said that fear of crime prevented many elderly people from leaving their homes in the evenings; thereby affecting the quality of their lives.
- 32 In respect of the raid on the Rastafarian Temple, St Agnes Place on 12 April, Mr Bridger asserted that at no time had he referred to the Temple as a crack den and that it was a matter for the press what they chose to put in their newspapers.
- 33 Mr Bridger said that the Temple had been subject to surveillance that had begun over a year ago with filming taking place on a daily. He said that 600 people per day had been visiting the Temple with stops and searches showing that many had purchased drugs there.
- 34 Mr Bridger said that the custodians of the Temple, the Ethiopian Welfare Foundation (EWF), had approached the police for help from certain elements using the place. Following the raid he said police found substantial amounts of cannabis and recovered some firearm ammunition.
- 35 Mr Bridger said that an attempt to have the Temple closed down failed when the court refused to grant a closure order. However, Mr Bridger said that the EWF had agreed to leave the premises and handover the keys to the local authority on 15 April.
- 36 In response to Peter McDonach who asked how the removal of street wardens would help reduce crime, Supt. Paul Wilson said that Lambeth would be receiving an extra 22 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). He said that seven PCSOs would be deployed in each of the Streatham and Vauxhall sub-commands with eight in Brixton due to a longstanding agreement for a PCSO for Brighton Terrace [as part of the Planning Permission for the new Drug Treatment Centre].
- 37 Supt. Wilson said that the ultimate decision about how the extra PCSOs would be used would be down to the Superintendents of each sub-command and would be made on an intelligence led basis.
- 38 In response to Mr McDonach's concern that only race and homophobic hate crime had been highlighted in the police report, Supt. Wilson said that hate crime was a generic label and police were compelled to measure all hate crimes.
- 39 However, Ms Tapsell said that certain victims of hate crime were not receiving as much attention as they ought, such as where the elderly and disabled people were concerned. She added that this was an issue that Arulini Velmurugu had brought to the Group's attention over many years.
- 40 John Roberts said had been working with the Disabilities Independent Advisory Group and the Mayor of London to capture hate crime data and that there were national targets that had to be met.
- 41 In response to Paul Reynolds, Supt. Wilson said that dispersal zones were being carefully considered for moving people on from particular areas to reduce anti-social behaviour. However, a he said a blanket drinking ban was not likely at the present.
- 42 In relation to role of Lambeth councillors' involvement in Safer Neighbourhood (SN) panels, Supt. Wilson said that the implication of the Government's White Paper 'Stronger and More Prosperous Communities' were that councillors would play a pivotal role championing community issues, and that the further implications for Safer Neighbourhood Panels merited consideration. He added that there was a need for a general review of the performance of Safer Neighbourhood Panels; many were performing well but some were not.
- 43 ***Ms Tapsell said the proposal for councillors' membership of each of their own ward's SN panel was a serious issue which needed to be discussed. Ms Tapsell said that this would take place at a Group facilitated SN conference.***
- 44 Mr Bridger said that people were present at Clarence House, Rushcroft Road at the time of a fatal shooting of a male on 24 April and that he would come back to Gill Kenealy the next day with information as to what happened to the residents and where they had gone while the premises was being 'forensicated'.
- 45 Whilst understanding the need to for the police to respond rapidly to calls, Ms Kenealy said that in the light of the serious accident on Effra Road the preceding weekend, there had to be concerns about the speed of police vehicles in a very built up and often congested area.

Stop and Search

- 46 The Stop and Search Monitoring Sub-Group gave a Powerpoint presentation of recent trends within the borough (attached).
- 47 Key points were:
- 48 A fall in the numbers of people being stopped and searched from Autumn 2004 onwards, for all ethnic groups
- 49 An associated rise in the numbers being 'Stopped and Accounted'
- 50 A rise in the Arrest rate of those Stopped and Searched
- 51 A consequent fall in the numbers of those 'walking away'.
- 52 A rise in the disproportionality between Black and White residents, albeit with smaller numbers of both being stopped
- 53 The likelihood of being stopped in Lambeth is lower, for all ethnic groups, than in London overall,
- 54 The presentation also included a community wish list for further improvement in the use of Stop and Search, and details of police monitoring and training procedures in place to attain this.
- 55 In discussion, the following points, and responses, were made
- 56 Mrs Lynn Thomas asked why it always appeared that it was young Black people who were being Stopped and Searched rather than White people. Chief Inspector Patrick Benyon responded that both Black and White people were Stopped and Searched, which the figures showed, but that relative to population there was indeed a disproportionality towards Black people. He added that this disproportionality was, in the most recent figures, tracking down to the London average.
- 57 Catriona Robertson (Stockwell and Clapham Faith Forum) asked why the figures excluded s44 Terrorism Stops, which she said caused considerable resentment amongst young Muslims. Ms Robertson offered to send a member of her Forum to join the Sub-Group. Shane Collins queried how reliable the figures were without the inclusion of s44 Stops.

- 58 Jim Toohill responded that the Group, and indeed the Borough Commander, had long argued that s44 figures should be published on a borough basis rather than centrally only. However, he added that when the Group had had sight of s44 data, Lambeth was a relatively low user of the power, with many of the Stops being in the Government's security zone on the South Bank. He said he felt the exclusion of the relatively low figures did not invalidate the conclusions of the presentation. He said that the Monitoring Group would be pleased to welcome a representative from the Faith Forum.
- 59 Lloyd Leon said that he was pleased to see a representative from the Territorial Support Group contributing to the work of the Monitoring Group. He said that relationships between the community and the TSG, and particularly their antecedents the SPG, had historically been poor. Supt Corrigan interjected that it should be recognized that many members of the TSG had been Lambeth officers priorly and so would have an awareness of community issues in the borough.
- 60 John Howard commended the thoroughness of the Monitoring Group's analysis and presentation but pointed out that the key issue remained, which had exercised CPCG down the years, which was the disproportionality in Stop and Search Rates between ethnic groups

Any Other Business

- 61 Jim Toohill reported that Simon Harding had indicated, during the meeting, that the Safer Lambeth Partnership were planning to institute a 'Guns and Gangs Commission' in the near future and would be asking CPCG to host a conference on the subject, as part of the Commission's work. He said he felt confident that the Group would respond positively to such an approach, when the details became available, and that members would be kept informed.
- 62 ***Kelly Ben Maimon, a Governor of Hill Mead Primary School, raised the issue of an offer of a £5,000 grant to the school, from the MPS, which she said was outstanding.***

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6. 30 p.m. TUESDAY, 5 June 2007