

**Room 8, Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton SW2 1BZ**

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell, Paul Andell, Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Gill Kenealy, Shane Collins, Jim Toohill (Ind. Members), Wesley Stephenson
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP: Nick Abengowe (Herne Hill Forum), Brian Mantell (Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen), James Fairweather (WIESA), Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market Traders), Catriona Robertson, (Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum), Cathy Tayleure (Clapham Town Neighbourhood Watch), Abdul Sultan Virani (Lambeth Older Persons' Forum), Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road Residents Assoc.)
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Hope Barrett, Habiba Compaore, Richard Dutton, Peter Harris, Brian Parker, David Prichard-Jones, Fernando Senior
STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: John Roberts MPA
LAMBETH COUNCIL: Cllr. Imogen Walker
METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE: Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe, Supt. Paul Wilson, Sgt. Ronnie Whelan
SECRETARIAT: Ben McKendrick

GUESTS: VISITORS SIGNING IN: Helen Buckley (Lewisham CPCG), Ian Cameron, Mohammed A. Davies, Nick Mason, Keith Shaw

PRESS Leon Watson SLP

APOLOGIES: Ivelaw Bowman, Wally Channon, David Corderoy, Maude Estwick, Rowena Estwick, Gloria Gomez, Neil Flanigan, David Hart, Lloyd Leon, Ch. Insp. Jim Little (BTP), Mehmda Miam Pritchard, Richard Moore, Ros Munday, Brian Parker, June Pilgrim, David Pritchard-Jones, Cllr. Graham Pycock, Paul Reynolds, David Tomlinson, Peggy Tyler, Jane Warwick, Cathy Valentine

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

Introduction

- 1 Anna Tapsell welcomed Insp. Steve Laurie and Sgt. Andy Harding of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Territorial Support Group (TSG) to the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting 6 November 2007

- 2 Minutes of the Meeting 4 December 2007 were accepted with the following amendment: Add Richard Moore to Apologies.

Matters Arising

- 3 ***Supt. Paul Wilson said that Lambeth police needed to consult about the Police Estate's Strategy via a public meeting and asked if the Group would host a public meeting in February to discuss the issue.***

- 4 John Roberts said that the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) had made no decisions about the Lambeth Police Estate and also wanted to consult with Group on the matter in order to ensure that police property was fit for purpose in the future.
- 5 Ms Tapsell said that the Group's Board would hold discussions with the police and MPA in respect of how the meeting should take shape [Minute 5, 04/12/07].
- 6 Ms Tapsell said Board Members would continue to represent the Group's views at planning meetings [Minute 10, 04/12/07].
- 7 ***Ms Tapsell said that the Group would invite Julia Wolton, Coordinator of the Lambeth Exit programme, to the meeting that the Group will be holding in February in relation to the MPA's Youth Scrutiny*** [Minute 13, 04/12/07].
- 8 ***Sgt. Ronnie Whelan said that he had not yet managed to obtain data regarding visits to licensed premises over the Christmas period to check on underage sales of alcohol. However, he said that an early indication was that visits had not been made to supermarkets*** [Minute 20, 04/12/07].
- 9 John Roberts said that there was no policy in respect of 'Stop and Deport' has had been claimed at the last meeting, and statistics from the MPS Custody Directorate showed that Southwark held the highest number of immigration detainees - as it was the immigration detainee centre for London. Last year, Mr Roberts said that there had been 4,000 detainees held for deportation including illegal immigrants, overstayers and traffickers. This, he said, represented 1.3% of the total number on London's 494,000 detainees.
- 10 In terms of Lambeth, Mr Roberts said that in the six months from June to November 2007, 189 people had been arrested for immigration offences and other related crimes, adding that police only worked with immigration officers on specific operations.
- 11 While she said that she thought 189 was a high figure, Ms Tapsell said that there was unrest in the Latin community, and probably others, about the number of people coming into contact with the police and eventually

being deported as a result of Stop and Search. At meetings of the Latin community, she said that she had heard people relate stories of theirs and others experiences of immigration matters.

12 Ms Tapsell said that Stop and Deport didn't literally mean instant deportation but that it was being used as a legitimate reason to Stop and Search. She added that the Group needed to return to the issue and listen to the Latin community and others about what was happening, and the anxiety and tension it brought.

13 Ch. Insp. Patrick Beynon said that putting the figure of 189 immigration offences into context, there would have likely been between 5-6,000 people detained by Lambeth police during the period highlighted by Mr Roberts.

14 John Wainwright said that with thirty people per month were being deported from an ethnic group he could see the Latin community's and other communities' point of view, although from an outsiders point of view, in the context of thousands of arrests, it appeared to be a small number.

15 Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe said that she would obtain a breakdown of the nationalities of those detained for immigration offences.

16 Wesley Stephenson asked if the breakdown could include whether detainees had been arrested at premises and cases where RIPA¹ had been invoked.

17 In response to Abdul Sultan Virani, Mr Roberts said that foreign students who had overstayed and had been arrested for committing a crime would be deported.

18 Insp. Ian Mixer said that British Transport Police (BTP) did not police with the intention of looking for overstayers and illegal immigrants, although it could be a by product of other policing activity. Insp. Mixer said that he had been in touch with Gloria Gomez of the Latin Front (LF) and other representatives and invited them to observe operations.

19 Furthermore, Insp. Mixer said that Supt. Ellie Bird had been in negotiations about appearing on a Latin community radio to allay any fears that they were being targeted. Insp. Mixer added that immigration officers were not allowed to work on the underground.

20 John Wainwright said that he wished he had been able to attend the December meeting as he would like to have put the question "under which circumstances could police have imagined that the MPS Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair would have resigned if not the case of John Charles de Menezes."

Lambeth Police Report

21 Chief Supt. Sharon Rowe gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lambeth police performance for the previous month (attached).

22 Ms Tapsell said that it would be useful for the police report to contain the number Section 136 issued by police in Lambeth.

23 John Wainwright said that he would like to be kept updated regarding the use of high-pitched sound emitting Mosquito devices to disperse young people.

24 Mr Collins said that it seemed that police were concentrating again on drug possession as opposed to Class A supply. In response, Ms Rowe said that drug dealing and possession were offences, enforceable and linked to acquisitive crime, one which had been reduced for the sixth year running. Ms Rowe said that she tasked her Safer Neighbourhood Teams to address drug problems in Lambeth.

25 Fernando Senior asked if the Group could have an update on murder cases at the next meeting.

Taser Presentation - TSG

26 Insp. Laurie and Sgt. Harding gave a PowerPoint presentation on Taser, which was being trialed over a year until September 2008. The presentation included

¹ RIPA – Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000)

video footage of Taser usage during a real incident and a staged scenario.

- 27 Insp. Laurie said that the MPS had become involved in the Home Office/Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) trial in April 2007. While the police trialing of Tasers in other parts of the UK had started on 1 September 2007, the TSG had waited until 13 December while discussions with the MPA were going on about whether the latter wanted to be involved.
- 28 Insp. Laurie said that Taser had been used in London since 2003 in response to increased levels of violence towards police officers and the public in general, with the aim of reducing injury to both violent offenders and the police. Having support of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), Insp. Laurie said that Taser was the least injurious of the tactical options that the police had to use.
- 29 In using Taser, Insp. Laurie said that the police were subject to Article II of the United Nations Code of Conduct which stated that law enforcement agencies should choose a number of options when dealing with conflict resolution.
- 30 Insp. Laurie said that in 2007 the use of Taser was extended to all UK firearms officers in firearms incidents and was followed by the unique trial by unarmed officers in unarmed incidents.
- 31 Insp. Laurie said that five London TSG units (the Commissioner's Reserve) was involved in the trial, as opposed to borough officers, because it had a command structure of one inspector, three sergeants and eighteen constables, which was resourced to provide five shifts a day, 365 days a year, covering London from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 a.m. the following morning. Insp. Laurie said that while the TSG were deployed to attend many different incidents, including dealing with a lot of violent people, not all TSG officers were trained in the use of Taser.
- 32 Insp. Laurie said that training for the TSG was a comprehensive selection process with not all officers meeting requirements, which added to the TSG's creditability. In respect of Taser use, he said that there was an accredited assessment in using the equipment and decision making over a two day session, unlike the three hours training given to firearm officers.
- 33 While Ms Tapsell said that Taser looked like a toy, Sgt. Harding said that the weapon worked on two levels; psychological and physiological. With regard to the psychological factor, Sgt. Harding said that people were seeing officers turning up at incidents with a Taser and, realising what could potentially happen to them, they desist continuing with their behaviour thereby bringing about an early resolution to conflict.
- 34 Sgt. Harding said that was also an escalation in the way in which Taser was introduced for which officers were trained. If people saw the Taser they tended to stop what they were doing. If not, they could have Taser brought to their attention, not least by the laser guide which showed up on the target being aimed at. Furthermore, police could also use the activation of the Taser, which generates sparks, to give suspects pause for thought. Sgt. Harding said that it was very rare that people, having seen the Taser, would want to experience what could happen next.
- 35 When activated, Sgt Harding said that the Taser would discharge a pair of probes attached to copper wire, which would be aimed to reach out to the intended target; with the top probe going towards the laser sight and the bottom probe moving in same direction at a six degree angle. With only twenty-one feet of wire to play with, Sgt Harding said that the distance between a Taser and the intended target was limited. Therefore, he said that police had an operating distance of between seven to twelve feet.
- 36 Sgt. Harding said that once the barbs at the end of the wires hit and were connected to the target, 50,000 volts was sent through, which uniquely worked on nuero-muscular activity to incapacitate the subject. Sgt. Harding said that this was a whole new ball game for police as over the years they had been dealing with people via pain and compliance, which could involve the use of a baton or asp as well as empty hand techniques.
- 37 However, in some cases, pain and compliance could become necessarily excessive to subdue people who were less

susceptible to pain, perhaps due to drink, drugs or being mentally able to override it. Taser made such excessive force unnecessary as it was effective on everyone. Sgt. Harding said that Taser operated on 0.002 amps, just enough to bring someone under control, which took 50,000 volts to push the amps through.

- 38 Referring to a Conflict Management Model (or Officer Safety Model), Sgt. Harding said that this was drilled into officers who had a formula to go by; officers received information and intelligence, the threat was assessed, powers and policies were considered, and tactical options viewed.
- 39 Taser being one tactical option, Sgt. Harding said it would be used alongside others, such as batons and CS Spray, and not instead of them. He said that there was no such thing as a 'Taser call'.

The Group proceeded to watch a video of a real life incident in which Taser was used by Manchester police, filmed on a Helmet Camera of a male holding his mother hostage.

- 40 Mr Stephenson said that Taser was used on a male more than once during a raid on the Rastafarian Temple, St Agnes Place, and that with everyone's body mass being different, the effect of Taser was different upon each individual. Mr Stephenson asked what would happen to an individual who was in contact with water and whether there was an audit of its effects, as there had been with CS spray, which had led to people being taken to casual. In response, Sgt. Harding said that if someone was stood in an ornamental pond Taser would not have an effect on anyone in proximity and that it would be evaluated at the end of the trial in September.
- 41 Gill Kenealy commented that the action in the video had all happened very quickly and that the police did appear to attempt to negotiate. In response, Sgt. Harding said that as the incident developed and the police officer entered the property, he saw the suspect standing up with a carving knife in his hand. En route to the scene, he said that the officer had been given information from the suspect's mother about her armed son holding her hostage. Therefore, the officer would have already thought that matters were quite desperate and, upon

arrival, he saw the suspect stand up holding a knife a few feet away from the front door through which his colleague was about to enter.

- 42 Sgt. Harding said that a decision had to be made about the threat the man posed, who may for example have had mental health problems, and that if the officer had called out there was a risk as to what his response would have been. Sgt. Harding said that there was a possible threat to life and the officer chose to use Taser to end the conflict. With the luxury of time and space, Sgt. Harding said that targets would be warned and that all officers had to justify their actions using the conflict management model.
- 43 Ms Tapsell said that she found the incident shocking because there was no attempt to warn the suspect that he could be Tasered, thereby omitting the psychological factor to resolve the conflict in a scenario that was not uncommon. She added in incidents where people have been killed or seriously injured by Taser it was because they knew nothing about them.
- 44 Sgt. Harding said that nobody, anywhere, had died as a result of Taser and while there was no evidence of secondary, related illnesses, Taser itself has never been recorded as the cause of death. With regard to persons with pacemakers, Sgt. Harding said that public buildings used defibrillators that worked from 140 to 500 Joules of energy, which was deemed to be safe to use in conjunction with pacemakers, while Taser used only 0.07 Joules.
- 45 Sgt Harding said that over the last month, in London, there were fifty-six recorded uses of Taser of which only two incidents involved Taser being fired. He said that using the Conflict Management Model should ensure that the police were working in a safe environment.
- 46 Referring to the after management of events, Sgt. Harding said that serial numbered Tasers used serial numbered cartridges which recorded the use of Taser and could identify where officers were standing at the time that it was fired and which officer did so. Furthermore, Taser could be connected to a computer to download information such as time, date,

duration, temperature, and battery status of the last 1,500 firings, which made officers accountable. Having downloaded information himself, Sgt. Harding said that they were not being used or fired indiscriminately.

- 47 Sgt Harding said that scene management seal off scenes of where Taser has been used and collect and tag evidence for forensication. Officers also had to fill in a ten-page form, 6624, every time Taser was taken out of its holster and the form sent to New Scotland Yard where it was analysed. With regard to people subjected to Taser, Sgt. Harding said that they were given a notice which they could show to their doctor.
- 48 In the event of anything going wrong, such as when the public had been placed in danger, or serious injuries had occurred or failures in command had been, Sgt. Harding said that a post-incident procedure was put in place. With regard to the IPCC, Sgt. Harding said that there was no automatic notification of use of Taser although any complaints would be referred and investigated.
- 49 John Roberts said that presently, during the Taser trial, four MPA members were receiving daily briefings on what was happening in relation to Taser while there also an oversight committee, which included himself, Cindy Butts (MPA Deputy Chair), a Magistrate Member and Rachel Whittaker (an Independent Member). The Committee met every two months.
- 50 Paul Andell said that in terms of the move from pain and control to neuro-muscular control he did not remember agreeing to any change in strategy in respect of policing by consent, and nor did he recall any consultation on the matter. In relation to operational matters, Mr Andell said that the 50,000 volts and 0.02 amps used by Taser was the same as that used to make X-rays.
- 51 Mr Andell said that he would like to know how the trial would be evaluated in terms of both the physical safety issues and the social context of its usage.
- 52 In response to Fernando Senior, Insp. Laurie said that any incident that involved serious issues such as officers operating outside the remit, serious injury or death, or where a complaint was made, would lead to the incident being automatically referred to IPCC and an independent investigation undertaken.
- 53 Shane Collins said that he thought Tasers were an escalation in weaponry and police should be examining, and provide, figures to see if there really has been an increase in the use of violence against police officers if that was the reason for the introduction of Taser. He added that people who carried knives could start moving towards carrying guns in order to make themselves feel safer with Tasers coming into circulation.
- 54 In response, Insp. Laurie said that Tasers were not new to the streets of London although sometime down the line Mr Collins could be right. However, the police had to trial the equipment which, without exception, had so far provided early resolution. Insp. Laurie said that Taser had not been brought in out of desperation of violence against police but as safer, less injurious option for members of the public, as was seen by the speed of recovery of the suspect in the video
- 55 A member of the public said that if the MPS and MPA were serious about accountability then all officers should be issued with Helmet Cameras. In response, Insp. Laurie said that Helmet Cameras were a separate issue and something that was being developed and trialed in certain places.
- 56 John Roberts said the MPS still used Pain and Control and that his understanding was that under agreement with the MPA, Taser was just another way controlling violent people. He said that he still had concerns which he had voiced with the MPA which had asked many questions. Mr Roberts asked that it be remembered that the Taser trial was brought in by the Home Office and that it had already started before the MPA had agreed to it.
- 57 Eventually, after delaying the MPS of going ahead for over two months, Mr Roberts said that the MPA thought it best to be part of the trial rather than have Taser foistered upon the MPS once the trials had been concluded and evaluated by the Home Office. Subsequently, the MPA found out before it

had been agreed that the MPS had been visiting CPCGs and other forums discussing the trial. And following a meeting addressed by member of Amnesty International, looking at Taser use in Canada and forming an oversight committee, the MPA were watching the trial very closely.

58 Mr Roberts said that the other reason he had changed his mind about accepting the pilot was because the MPA was told that if the MPS did not become involved in the trial and it had a favourable evaluation Taser would be imposed upon police.

59 In response to Mr Stephenson, Mr Roberts said that the Taser trial would take place across the boroughs where the TSG operated the most, such as Ealing, Lambeth, Lewisham, Westminster, Waltham Forest, and others where fourteen Tasers were available to the TSG.

60 In response to Ms Tapsell's question about whether the MPA had received an explanation as to what brought about Taser being piloted, Mr Roberts said that it was his understanding that the Home Office wanted a range of options to deal with violent people and to protect the public and police officers. With a huge increase in gun crime, Mr Roberts said the Home Office wanted to reduce officers having to use lethal force and protect officers.

61 In response to Ms Tapsell, Insp. Laurie said that other than to say that Taser had limited operational range, the reason why an armed police officer would choose to use a firearm to shoot an armed suspect instead Taser, was a question that would be best put to an officer from the firearms unit, CO19.

The Group proceeded to watch two video reconstructions in which a violent detainee, in the first, was removed from a police cell by riot police to be taken to court, and in the second, by use of Taser to incapacitate him.

62 At the end of the viewing Insp. Laurie said that he had endured a Taser being used on himself in order that he could relate his experience to other officers. He said that it was similar to that seen in the video where the target was swiftly incapacitated but recovered immediately.

63 In concluding the presentation, Insp. Laurie said that the TSG senior management team reviewed Taser monthly, provided presentations to community groups, assessed training regularly and provided an additional tactical option. He added that the company that made Taser had looked at what the TSG were doing and considered it to be the best training course in the world, because of the time and effort put into it.

64 In response to Richard Dutton's question concerning the handling of disabled people, Sgt. Harding said while it was all very well to speculate about different scenarios, officers needed to look at each one differently to assess whether a particular individual or scenario warranted the use of Taser, which was not the be all and end, and that police still talked to people. For example, he said that there were occasions when Taser would not be appropriate such as when there was petrol at the scene. Following the review of the fifty-six times it had been used so far, Sgt. Harding said that he was overwhelmed by how successful it had been.

65 In response to Ms Tapsell, Insp. Laurie said using a Taser on Section 136 (Mental Health Act) callout would come down to the risk assessment and the level of threat. He said that the issue was considered in training under Special Population Groups, who may have needs that make an incident different and difficult to deal with. However, it was level of threat and the appropriate, safest, tactical option considered that would affect the decision.

66 In response to Ms Kenealy, Sgt Harding said that the incident to which she referred, concerning a man who was allegedly Tasered without warning and fell forward, losing a tooth, was nothing to do with unarmed officers being discussed in the presentation, but was a Taser used by firearm officers who had been using them since 2003. He added that none of the fifty-six incidents of TSG use of Taser were subject to an IPCC investigation.

67 Ms Kenealy, however, said that the incident to which she referred was possibly an abuse of the use of Taser against a black man, and in the context of the high incidence of stop and search she was concerned that ethnic minorities were more likely to be subject to the use of Taser.

- 68 Insp. Laurie said that he couldn't stress enough how much the use of Taser was being monitored, including disproportionality, of which, across the board, there was an even spread of people in London. Across the UK, on the other hand, it appeared that more white people had been the subject of Taser. He added that with the very close monitoring an abuse of Taser would be immediately jumped on with no stone left unturned and officers held accountable for their actions.
- 69 In response to Nick Abengowe's concerns about criminals using Taser on security guards, Sgt. Harding said that Taser was a prohibited, illegal weapon for non-police and people without authority to use it would be heavily dealt with. He added that there was no evidence to suggest that there was an increase in the market for people wanting to use Taser as a weapon of choice at the moment.
- 70 In response to Mrs Thomas and Doye Akinlade, Sgt. Harding said that sometimes the police did not have the benefit of time in dealing with incidents, especially when the public was put at risk, and police have been criticised for standing off and not going in to deal with incidents, leading to people being killed. When police received a call from a member of the public, he said that there was a certain amount of time to save people's lives.
- 71 In such a scenario as shown, Sgt. Harding said that police would have to get to an address as quickly as possible and would not have much time to make in-depth intelligence checks on individuals. With the information the police had, alongside what they saw at the scene, they had to make a quick, balanced decision knowing that with the training they had that nobody would be killed, which could have been otherwise if they had waited.
- 72 Jim Toohill said that when Taser was first brought in, it was a matter of the use of Tasers as against using firearms, such as using Taser against someone wielding a machete, which many would perhaps think was a reasonable balance. However, Mr Toohill said that the proliferation of Taser was a huge escalation, the size of which was difficult to gauge because the police operating parameters were unknown e.g. whether or not it was still limited to being used against persons with weapons. Therefore, he said it would be useful to have a guide to the circumstances in which a Taser could be used.
- 73 Mr Toohill said that while police say that nobody had died from being Tasered it was contentious in that it could be an aggravating factor to a person's later death, which could still do damage to community and police relations. Furthermore, Mr Toohill said that much of the scientific evidence was based on tissue samples or computer simulation, and he posed the question about what would happen if a person who was Tasered fell and died from head injuries.
- 74 Agreeing with Mr Collins, Mr Toohill said that in terms of escalation of Taser that once it occurred it could not be reversed. With regard to community and police relations, Mr Toohill said that once the public became familiar with what the Taser was it could distance people from the police in the same way that arming the police would.
- 75 Mr Toohill said that when it was learned that Taser was going to be trialed by the TSG there were some concerns, not least in view of complaints about TSG stop and search, whereby people were not given stop slips. He also said that the Group was also not certain that all the figures it received from the police included those from the TSG, and that the TSG was rarely seen at Group meetings. Mr Toohill asked how success of the trial would be judged and how community reaction would be factored in.
- 76 Mr Stephenson said that he was concerned about deaths as a result of Taser which didn't involve the suspect having a weapon and the absence of a central matrix. For example, full information could not be obtained on an individual who had NHS records unless that individual was already known to police. Mr Stephenson said that the Home Office had taken a backward step in not dealing with the problem of imitation firearms in the community. Instead of removing imitation firearms out of the shops, Mr Stephenson said the Home Office had upped the ante.
- 77 Mr Stephenson also expressed his concerns of copying the modus operandi of USA

police, which had led to the problems of gangs in London at the present time. He said that the UK should be looking for its own solutions to its own problems but the floodgates had been opened with the issuing of stun guns to the police. Furthermore, he suggested the possibility of imitation stun guns eventually being carried by youths with the subsequent consequences.

- 78 In respect of concerns raised about death and injury, Insp. Laurie said that with the introduction of Taser, it was perhaps natural that comparison would be drawn between Met officers and their USA counterparts. However, he said that police in London did business differently and in terms of Taser trial it had been preceded by huge amounts of research by the Home Office scientific department and the information given by them was that no individual had been killed by the direct use of Taser.
- 79 With regard to the image of the Taser, Insp. Laurie said that many people in Lambeth would soon know that the TSG was in possession of it Taser, which could be a big problem, especially if engaging with people who may think it was a gun and start to point guns at police. Therefore, the monitoring of Taser, which was literally on a day to day basis would change. With regard to how success would look, Insp. Laurie said that he was unable to say.
- 80 Insp. Laurie said that he totally understood about the image of the TSG, even within the MPS, but the best efforts were made to present a professional group of officers who were, in the main, pretty good, although mistakes were made.
- 81 Mr Roberts said he shared the Group's concerns and would pass any feedback to the MPA. He added that while at present the TSG had fourteen Tasers, a concern of his was should the trial be deemed a success that the number of Tasers issued could increase as far as every TSG van carrying one.
- 82 Mr Wainwright said that he agreed with every reservation that the Group had expressed about Taser yet he could see that there was a case to be made for it. However, he said that it was the Group's duty to pass on to the TSG all its concerns in order that they would use Taser with
- same restraint in which CS Spray had been used.
- 83 Mrs Thomas expressed her concerns about the Government saying that it was all right for young children to play with toy guns with so many young people being shot and killed.
- 84 Mr Collins said that his concerns in relation to standard operating procedures was Taser was going to be used very frequently and, being the Community-Police Consultative Group, he felt that the Group had been disempowered by introduction of Taser trial. He said that his first misapprehension was that the MPA were running things but it had turned out to be the Home Office. Mr Collins said that he was also concerned that it had taken to January to be discussed at a Group meeting when it had been discussed at the MPA for months.
- 85 Mr Collins asked if at the end of the trial Taser would continue to be used while the trial was being evaluated and whether a Home Office representative could be invited to meeting to hear the Group's views, although, he added, consultation should come before such a trial was started.
- 86 PC John Jeffrey, said that one of the primary objectives of police was the protection of life and property, but there wasn't one police officer who wanted to find himself in a violent situation or resort to a violent resolution. Having watched the videos, he said that he would rather his sons suffered a brief moment of pain than suffer fatal or serious injury, and the Taser was a means of saving lives, which was what police were here for.
- 87 PC Jeffrey said that the police did not want to be routinely armed and Taser was seen as an option and another tool in the kitbag. PC Jeffrey added that Taser was being closely monitored and that he was speaking for the Police Federation when he said that they were keeping eye on what was happening with the trials.
- 88 In response to a question submitted by Neil Flanigan concerning the trauma of people subjected to Taser and to police who use it, PC Jeffrey said that he was satisfied with the access to and support given in such instances.

89 ***Ms Tapsell said that, in general, the Group was pretty cynical about what the findings of the Home Office as a result of the trial would be, and the agenda for escalation and greater confrontation with the police armed with a weapon that they didn't previously possess. Ms Tapsell proposed inviting a politician to a Group meeting in order for it views to be heard at government level.***

90 Ms Tapsell proposed that the Group's Stop and Search Monitoring sub-Group should monitor the use of Taser in Lambeth.

Any Other Business

91 The Group congratulated Clovis Reid, Lambeth Youth Worker, upon being awarded a MBE.

92 ***Mr Stephenson proposed that the Group invite the three mayoral candidates, Ken Livingstone, Boris Johnson and Brian Paddick to a Group meeting to discuss policing issues.***

Date of next Meeting

6. 30 p.m. TUESDAY, 5 February 2008

**St Leonard's Church, Streatham
SW16**