COMMUNITY-POLICE

CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR LAMBETH

St Leonard's Church Streatham SW16

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell, Paul Andell, Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Gill Kenealy, Shane Collins, Paul Reynolds (Herne Hill Society), Jim Toohill (Ind. Members), Wesley Stephenson COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP: Nick Abengowe (Herne Hill Forum), Brian Mantell (South London Synagogue), Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler (Clapham Town Neighbourhood Watch), Neil Flanigan (WIESA), Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market Traders Federation), Anna Long (Churches Together in Clapham), Catriona Robertson, (Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum), Cathy Tayleure (Clapham Town Neighbourhood Watch), Abdul Sultan Virani (Lambeth Older Persons' Forum), Tomlinson (Stockwell Park Neighbourhood Watch) George Tuson (Streatham Common Southside Neighbourhood Watch), John Wainwright (Clapham Sector Working Party), Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road Residents Assoc.), David INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Hope Barrett, Rod Brown, Habiba Compaore, David Corderoy, Richard Dutton, Peter Harris, David Prichard-Jones, Clare Moore, Cheryl Sealey, Fernando Senior STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: LAMBETH COUNCIL Cllr. Kingsley Abrams, Cllr. Mark Bennett, Cllr. Lorna Campbell **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE:** Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe, Supt. Paul Wilson, Sgt. Ronnie Whelan, Det. Ch. Insp. Mick Gallagher, Det. Insp. Keith Richardson, Det. Insp. Tony Bauten (Trident) SECRETARIAT: Ben McKendrick

GUESTS: VISITORS SIGNING IN: June Pilgrim (Lambeth Women's Aid), Cathy Valentine (Angell Town TMO), Richard Watson, Rosalie Lawlor (St Leonard's Safer Neighbourhood Panel)

APOLOGIES: Maude Estwick, Rowena Estwick, Lloyd Leon, Brian Parker, John Roberts, Beryl Saunders, Jane Warwick

Minutes in bold italic indicate action points

Introduction

Anna Tapsell welcomed Det. Ch. Insp. Mick Gallagher, Det. Insp. Keith Richardson, Det. Insp. Tony Bauten (Trident), Ann Corbett (Head, Community Safety Division) and Geoff Wade (Consultant, CSD) to the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting 6 November 2007

2 Minutes of the Meeting 8 January 2008 were accepted with the following amendment: Add Lena James to those Present.

Matters Arising

3 David Tomlinson said that he was concerned about the tenor represented in the minutes about the concern of people from the Latin American community with regard to the issue of 'Stop and Deport'. Mr Tomlinson said that it was necessary to point out that the majority of

people from Latin American countries in the UK were either working without a work permit or had entered and stayed in the country without valid authorisation, which were criminal offences. He said that he was concerned that nothing in the minutes should give any suggestion that the CPCG was condoning criminality in any way.

- In response, Anna Tapsell said that she did not think that was the situation for the Latin community as a whole, and certainly not in Lambeth. The point, she said, had been made by Gloria Gomez who had legal status in the UK and represented the views of the Latin community, amongst which there was unrest, and that overstaying was not always a criminal matter. Ms Tapsell said that the CPCG was here to represent everybody and would continue to do so, including the Latin community.
- For the record, Mr Tomlinson said that he disagreed with Ms Tapsell and that his figures were from a good source. He also said that he disassociated himself from any condoning of criminality.
- 6 Shane Collins said that in relation to inviting mayoral candidates to a meeting to discuss crime in south London, Tim Donovan, BBC political editor, had agreed to attend and chair proceedings, and that several dates had been sent out to those invited [Minute 92, 08/01/08].

Lambeth Police Report

- 7 Chief Supt. Sharon Rowe gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lambeth police performance for the previous month.
- 8 Ms Rowe highlighted police activity that that had taken place in the borough in the previous four weeks. In Brixton, she said that a number of crack-house closures had taken place with one successful drugs warrant yielding £20,000 worth of crack.
- 9 Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) analysis of Operation Sentinel, a multi-agency initiative conducted between 7 December and 3 January in the Brixton Town Centre area, showed that offences had dropped from 116 to 68 offences compared to the same period of the previous year, representing a 41% reduction. During the

COMMUNITY-POLICE

CONSULTATIVE GROUP



Operation, Trident officers had attended licensed premises and anti-social behaviour patrols involving the council had taken place.

- 10 In Kennington, Ms Rowe said that the number of rough sleepers had been reduced from 14 to 6 as a result of good work by Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Ms Rowe said that weapons sweeps had also been taking place across estates while on Vassall Ward 12 gang members had been served Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) contracts.
- 11 In Streatham, Ms Rowe said that the main focus had been in relation to burglary although there had much work on ASB around Walk Hill and Norwood Road. Ms Rowe said that had been a 3.9% increase throughout the borough in burglary, which translated into 92 more victims, and that many operations were taking place
- 12 In terms of gun enabled crime, Ms Rowe said there had been 4 more victims during the year so far but a 2% overall reduction with a 5% target.

Serious Violent Crime

- 13 Anna Tapsell explained the role of the Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) Board on which all statutory agencies and their services were represented; including Lambeth Council, Lambeth Police, Probation, Fire Brigade, Crown Prosecution Service, Prison Service, Magistrates' Courts and Youth Court. Ms Tapsell said that she represented the Group at the SLP Board adding that the SLP had only recently made records of their meetings public.
- 14 In response to Richard Moore, Ms Tapsell said that CPCG Board minutes were published on CPCG's website www.lambethcpcg.org.uk
- 15 Ms Rowe said that she had given her views on serious violence in the autumn of last year and that the Lambeth Police's Violent Crime Strategy had commenced on 29 October with action plans about intelligence, enforcement, prevention and reassurance to address murder, GBH, rape, weapon enabled crime, robbery and gangs. Ms Rowe said that there had since been a 63% decrease in murder and a 19% decrease in GBH. At the same time, Ms Rowe said that of the offences that occurred during that period 55% had been cleared up against a

- MPS target of 32%. During the same period, Ms Rowe said that there had been a 29% decrease in rape and a 14% decrease in knife enable crime.
- 16 Ms Rowe said that had been much partnership activity, largely in the north of the borough in relation to gang interventions on estates; talking to gang members, their parents, addressing ASB and trying to stem their chaotic behaviour. In relation to gang intervention, Ms Rowe said that Lambeth were leading the way throughout London and although more needed to be done, the partnership agencies including the police, LBL Education and Youth Offending Service were linking up, taking shape and having an impact.
- 17 With regard to reducing the level of serious violent crime in Lambeth, Ms Rowe said that police were beginning to make a difference and had received much support from New Scotland Yard and Trident, with extra money and resources available every month. However, Ms Rowe said high level, hardnosed enforcement tactics could not last indefinitely and the best way to make a significant difference was to work better in partnership.
- 18 Det. Insp. Tony Bauten gave an update on 8 murders committed in Lambeth involving guns and the black community, which had been investigated by Trident. Following a trial in 2007, two defendants had been found not guilty of the murder of Anton Smith. DI Bauten said that in all cases where defendants were found not guilty they would remain open and further leads sort to try and bring perpetrators to justice.
- 19 With regard to James Smartt-Ford who was fatally shot at Streatham Ice Rink one year earlier, DI Bauten said there had been 14 arrests during the investigation, many of whom remained on police bail. He added that there was a reward for information that would assist in bringing those involved in the murder to trial.
- 20 DI Bauten said that 14 February would be the anniversary of the murder of Billy Cox, 15, who was shot in the bedroom of his own home in Clapham North last year. He said that one person was on police bail while witnesses were still being sought.
- 21 In relation to Alfred Liverpool who was murdered on 27 April 2007 in a squatted flat in Rushcroft Road, Brixton, DI Bauten said that

enquiries continued to identify three youths who had broken into the premises and struggled with the occupants who were largely from the Polish community.

- 22 In the early hours of 17 July 2007, Kola Babadier, a doorman at SW8 Bar in Clapham was murdered when a machine gun was used against a group of youths standing outside. Mr Badadiya was hit as he tried to protect a young woman who had come out of the bar. DI Bauten said that police had obtained lots of intelligence around those responsible.
- 23 On 26 July 2007, a youth, Abukar Mahamud, was murdered on Stockwell Park Estate after having been chased by a group of about 8 youths with a least one firearm discharged. DI Bauten said that enquiries continued.
- 24 In respect of the killing of Nathan Foster, 18, who was murdered on 3 August 2007, DI Bauten said that the trial of his alleged murderer would commence on 28 April 2008. The trial of the alleged killer of Rabel Talidi on 2 October 2007 was due to take place in June of this year.
- 25 DI Bauten said that enquiries were ongoing into the last murder in Lambeth in 2007 on 22 October of Gary Guthrie outside Streatham Ice Rink where weapons had been left at the scene.
- Det. Ch. Insp. Mickey Gallagher gave an account of Operation Six Bells, a raid on two premises, Cafe Tris and Eats on Landor Road, after intelligence had been received in mid-January concerning gang activity and firearms. Having verified the intelligence, DCI Gallagher said that he had contacted the MPS firearms unit, CO 19, to assist alongside TSG officers. In all, 200 hundred police officers, as well as forensic services, custody and medical support, took part.
- 27 DCI Gallagher said that were logistical problems in the planning of the operation due to the large number of people attending Cafe Tris which had a facade of a delicatessen but a basement that was used as an unlicensed nightclub. This was an issue for armed officers contemplating many people confined in a small area. As a consequence of the intelligence known on the evening of the raid, and after undertaking a risk assessment, Cafe Tris was raided at 6.05 a.m. on Saturday, 26 January, where 139 people were found to be jam-

- packed in the basement. This he said meant that issues concerning observation points and headcounts of people going in and out would need to be addressed for the future.
- 28 Nevertheless, DCI Gallagher said that the operation had been executed successfully with one person Tasered, who later apologised. DCI Gallagher said that there was a lot of crack cocaine and skunk weed found on the premises and the mixed smell of drugs and people made for an overpowering atmosphere with the potential for a public order situation.
- 29 DCI Gallagher said that as a consequence of officers his conducting themselves professionally all persons present were detained and ejected from the premises without incident. With the use of detective sergeants, DCI Gallagher said the police set up 'search city' comprising of tents, coaches, search processing stations, holding areas and medical support providing foil blankets. Because the whole process had been expedited as quickly as possible, DCI said that the process, working like a conveyor belt system, was without incident.
- 30 Of the 139 people detained, DCI Gallagher said that all were searched, name checked and portable-live-scanned i.e. fingerprinted. Of 28 people arrested, DCI Gallagher said that 18 were illegally in the country and that enquiries into them were undertaken by Trident Immigration Officers who were present. The remaining 10 were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply drugs. Unfortunately, DCI Gallagher said that they didn't recover a firearm but found a lot of ammunition.
- 31 As far as the community was concerned, DCI Gallagher said that he received some positive feedback while Safer Neighbourhood officers were employed to provide reassurance to local residents who were sympathetic of the fact that it needed to be a covert operation and that there was no facility nor opportunity to warn the wider community other that through the CPCG.
- 32 With regard to premises raided, DCI Gallagher said that both were closed with proceedings currently going through the courts to see that they were permanently closed. The person who controlled the premises was arrested and would be deported.



- 33 In response to Richard Dutton, DCI Gallagher said that the event was *not* a wedding and that after similar operations were executed an issue was informing the community what exactly had gone on. With regard to the press, DCI Gallagher said that they were informed on the morning of the operation and briefed at the scene by the MPS's Department of Public Affairs representative.
- 34 In response to Gill Kenealy, DCI Gallagher confirmed that there were a number of young girls found at the premises, the youngest being 13 years old, who were taken to one side to be processed speedily. Meanwhile, there parents were informed and in certain circumstances Social Services were also made aware. Due to the number of the people at the scene, DCI Gallagher said that police did not have the resource to take them home and extra officers drafted in were required to deal with other DCI Gallagher said that he would considered Ms Kenealy's idea of using voluntary organisations working in the area of vice and sexual exploitation in future operations and would talk to her outside the meeting.
- 35 Congratulating the police on a job well done, Canon Ivelaw Bowman said that he was not surprised about the numbers of people found on the premises as members of the community and those within his local parish, in which Cafe Tris was situated, had complained to him about it for a long time. One of the issues raised, he said was the length of time it took the police to take action. Canon Bowman added that for the second time in Landor Road police had been successful in tackling criminal elements and he hoped that a message had been sent out.
- 36 DCI Gallagher said that upon returning to Lambeth, having worked as a detective sergeant 12 years ago, community and police relations and the way police operations were presently put together with community support had come on leaps and bounds. In respect of a breakdown between community intelligence and intelligence he had been receiving months later, he said that he was aware of the issues and they would be addressed by tighter communication links between the community, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and police intelligence unit for verification.
- 37 Canon Bowman said that after such operations it would be a good idea to leaflet the community explaining what had happened and

- what was ongoing in order to gain and maintain the community's trust.
- 38 In response to Wally Channon, DCI Gallagher said that CO19, who were amongst the most professional officers with whom he had worked, were trained in variety of weapons including Taser, a non-lethal option to violent and threatening behaviour. He said that the officer who used Taser during the operation had been trained to a very high standard and would have given warnings to the target as well as his colleagues that he would be deploying it.
- 39 In response to Shane Collins DCI Gallagher said that there was no evidence that the premises were being used for prostitution and that the young women were there of their own volition to party. As far as crack cocaine was concerned he said it was definitely being used and, from information received, was being dealt on the premises.
- 40 In terms of measuring the success of the operation, DCI Gallagher said that the main aim for him was to gather evidence for having the premises closed down, arrest those dealing drugs with impunity and have a heavy impact on the particular gangs using the premises as a safe haven. Presently, he said, the main aim was to make sure that such places didn't pop up somewhere else across the borough. He added that in terms of sharing information, the relationship between community and police in Lambeth had matured.
- 41 Habiba Compaore said that she was upset to hear about young people being found at the premises, however, she said that young people wanted to socialise and places needed to be found for them to go at night. However, Cheryl Sealey said that children of 13 and 14 ought to be in bed and that moral values needed to be brought back into communities.
- 42 In closing, DCI Gallagher said that youth intervention and breaking the cycle of gang and gun culture was something the SLP was taking very seriously in the realisation that it was long term objective to win over hearts and minds. In the past, he said that there had been a lot of good work done in isolation over the past few years but the stage had been reached where it was all now becoming coordinated and hopefully reap rewards.
- 43 DCI Gallagher introduced Det. Insp. Keith Richardson from Operation Sapphire which



consisted of a detective inspector, two detective sergeants, eight detective constables Investigation Sexual Offence six Technique Officers (SOITs). The investigated incidents of rape, sexual assault and any other sexual offences deemed serious enough to take on. As an example, DI Richardson cited an incident reported earlier in the day from a victim alleging sexual abuse that had occurred 25 years ago, which police would investigate.

- 44 DI Richardson said that the MPS had two aims: a primary aim to identify and prosecute suspects accused of sexual offences; and a secondary aim to provide care to the victim from the time of coming to police. In 2003, he said police were involved in setting up the Havens Project, sexual assault referral centres, of which there were three throughout London. There, he said, victims could report a crime without involving the police and undergo a full forensic examination with the exhibits stored. Some victims, he said, didn't know what happened to them due to being drugged or so drunk but results from analysis could be relayed to the victim who could then decide what they want they wanted to do. Throughout the whole time the victim had the support of the Haven's staff, who provided counselling. DI Richardson said that the Havens did a superb job in assisting police in the investigation of rapes and would receive £2 million from the MPS this year.
- 45 DI Richardson said that the police followed three principles in respect of allegations of rape: to believe that the victim was telling the truth; to send a SOIT officer to a victim within an hour; to hold the victim's wishes to be paramount unless they were a victim of a serial offender, where it was important to seek the victim's assistance in terms of bringing about a prosecution.
- 46 DI Richardson said that the national target for the detection of rape offences was 30% and the MPS was currently attaining 32%. In the past financial year there had 159 allegations of rape in Lambeth and 54 'no crime' (where a victim later claims not to have been raped or where people tell police they are not sure if they have been raped and an investigation finds that no rape had taken place).
- 47 DI Richardson said only 13% of rapes were carried out by people not previously known to the victim, although a known person could be a

- stranger met at a night club where there had been some association. In 20% of cases, he said the victim and offender had been previously involved in an intimate relationship, and in 33% the offender was an acquaintance of the victim.
- 48 From a survey of 2005, DI Richardson said that 40% of rape victims were assaulted in their home address while 26% offences occurred at the suspect's address. In 33% of cases, where it had been properly recorded, alcohol had been a contributing factor.
- 49 In response to Paul Andell, DI Richardson said that in terms of rape cases, the Housing Department and housing associations had always supported police when approached about the need for a victim to be moved if she or he so desired. Gill Kenealy said that there were delays in moving some victims and that reciprocal arrangements between London boroughs to house victims of rape and domestic violence need to be vigourously addressed.
- 50 In response to Ms Sealey, DI Richardson said that vehicles used by Havens were those of the MPS, which were always available and used on a regular basis. In respect of victims with no recourse to public funds, DI Richardson said that the services at the Havens were free whether or not the victim was a foreign national or British citizen. However, he added that there was a problem with victims from the black community not being prepared to go Havens, which hindered investigations, so they needed be encouraged.
- 51 June Pilgrim, Lambeth Women's Aid (LWA), said that no recourse to public funds was a difficult issue and that LWA worked with others to sort out women's legal status, such as solicitors who gave their time free. She added that women could contact LWA, Gaia Centre and Refugee Council for further information.
- In response to Mr Dutton, DI Richardson said that in the majority of cases in which victims had lied about a rape was, in itself, a cry for help and they needed support and counselling. However, he said that should a suspect end up going to trial and remanded in custody as a result of a false allegation it would perhaps be appropriate to put the victim before the courts.
- 53 In response to Mr Moore, DI Richardson said that the service provided for victims of rape,



male or female, was equal and that it could even be arranged for a victim to see a gay SOIT officer. With regard to a male victim of a female rape, DI Richardson said that he had never come across an incident but the service and support would be the same as in other case.

- 54 Ms Kenealy said that she was not certain that a third of allegations by women were false and that perhaps women withdrew them because of not wanting to endure a difficult court case or for some other reason in the background. In response, DI Richardson said that there was an attrition rate where victims were concerned about giving an account to investigating officers, with the matter of going to court being even more daunting. These days, he said, women could give video evidence rather than having to give a live account in court, although they would still need to be cross-examined. By providing Havens, it was hoped that victims would have the confidence to follow through their allegations and thereby reduce the attrition rate.
- 55 In response to Catriona Robertson, DI Richardson said that when a SOIT officer was with a victim and booking an appointment to go to a Haven, a female doctor could be requested although the majority of staff were female. While he could not comment on ethnicity, he said that he completely understood that a women would not want to be examined by a male doctor.
- In response to a member of the public who said that victims should enter into an agreement with police about understanding the seriousness of the allegation, in order ensure that damaging false accusations were not made, DI Richardson said that to be accused of a rape and be innocent was an absolute tragedy but that the balances in the judicial system were good. However, he said that he agreed that the support network for an innocent person convicted of rape could be greater.

Guns and Gangs Commission

57 Cllr. Lorna Campbell, Chair of the Executive Commission on Children, Young People and Violent Crime, said that the Commission had come about as a result of an agreement at a Lambeth Council meeting last year that the borough would engage in issues around gangs

- and violent crime. Initially, along with Cllr. Mark Bennett, she that that they went through the Equalities Unit because the statistics in respect of victims and perpetrators of violent crime showed that they were predominantly from the Afro-Caribbean community. Of two options, Cllr. Campbell said that it was decided to constitute an Executive Committee rather than hold a scrutiny because the latter, in face of the urgency in tackling the matter, would have taken too long.
- 58 Cllr. Campbell said that the Commission, which met 11 times, was made up of professional people who were practioners providing services to young people in the borough and voluntary organisations and agencies. The Commission also heard verbal testimonies from adults and young people, and visited schools specialist vouth projects to see the effectiveness of services provided. To collate the information received and review relevant literature, in order to have overview of issues nationwide as well, the Commission engaged an academic expert [Prof. John Pitt].
- 59 Cllr. Campbell said that the aim of the Commission was to develop a strategy to address issues of gangs, guns and violent crime generally amongst young people while keeping in mind to produce a strategy that could and would be implemented. Cllr. Campbell said that the strategy looked at six areas; enforcement, schools and education, youth services, community support, skills training and family support. She added that it would be launched at a summit with the Councils partners and national government representatives on the 14 February.

Safer Lambeth Partnership Strategic Assessment

60 Ann Corbett, LBL Head, Community Safety Division, referred to the SLP's Strategic Assessment as a new model for addressing crime and disorder reduction. Ms Corbett said that the Assessment was not another strategy, but an interpretation of data, information and intelligence gathering, including an analysis of levels and patterns of crime, changes within them and reasons for them - looking at cause and effect and the drivers of crime. The Assessment also looked at comparisons with similar boroughs and what residents had to say about key priorities. Ms Corbett said the



Assessment was a statutory requirement and although it was not a public document it could be made available if people wanted to see it.

- 61 The main purpose of the Assessment, she said, was to introduce a intelligence led planning approach to the SLP. From the Assessment, the borough would derive a Partnership Plan, the key document that would set the priorities for Safer Lambeth over the next year, which led to questions about what actions would taken how it would be resourced and success was measured. Ms Corbett said she would like to bring the Partnership Plan, which had to be in place by 1 April 2008, back to the CPCG for a critique. Being a public document, Ms Corbett said that the community could use the Plan to hold the SLP to account.
- 62 Ms Corbett said that the deployment of resources should, in theory, followed priorities, and the one-year Plan, unlike the three year Community Safety Strategy ending on 31 March, would also help the SLP to respond more proactively to the communities it served.
- 63 Geoff Wade, a consultant to Community Safety, said that he was responsible for putting Lambeth's Strategic Assessment together, which began as an information gathering exercise from across the SLP and had been gone through by analysts with people from the Partnership contributing to the process. Looking at the cause and effect of crime, Mr Wade said, for example, that much violent crime was alcohol related and acquisitive crime a result of drug dependency.
- 64 While police had been producing their own Strategic Assessment since 2002, Mr Wade said that working in true partnership there would now be one Assessment that would meet the needs of the police and the Partnership as a whole. As part of his research, Mr Wade said that he had gone through a PESTLEGOM process of interviews to look at the Political. Economic. Social. Technological, Legal, Environmental, Geographical, Organisational capacity and Media and Communication drivers and factors to understand the realities when he spoke to the executive directors of the Partnership.
- 65 As a result of identifying the community safety priorities for the coming year, rather than the day to day volume crime, Mr Wade said that five strategic cross-service priorities had been identified: Reduce Serious Violent Crime;

Cohesive and Resilient Communities; Support Active and Respected Communities; Reduce the Harm of Drugs and Alcohol; Support for Young People. Mr Wade said that success would be measured by fewer victims of serious violent crime, improved feelings of public well being, the improved quality of service and public trust in service responses, fewer victims of acquisitive crime, less environmental and criminal damage, respect of citizens for one another and greater respect for other people. This, he said that this would improve the borough's outward image for businesses to invest in the borough.

- 66 In terms of the borough association with drugs market, Mr Wade said that Brixton's reputation was iconic in many respects as somewhere to go to buy drugs, which needed to be countered and disrupted. Similarly, Mr Wade said that the issues around alcohol also need to looked at, understood and addressed. Mr Wade said that the Assessment, which would be signed off on 18 March would inform the Partnership Plan and he proposed returning to the Group before then to demonstrate how it was going to be taken forward.
- 67 Jim Toohill said that just before Christmas, the CPCG Board had filled in a questionnaire in relation to the Assessment, which had been aimed at services in the borough, but the Board was not made aware that that it was seemingly speaking on behalf of Lambeth. Therefore, Mr Toohill said that it would very useful if the Assessment could be opened up more by putting all the information on the Council's website. Mr Toohill said that the previous Community Safety Audit was a huge exercise and education for everyone in Lambeth, and that the Assessment was another education that needed to be shared. Mr Toohill said that CPCG would be happy to facilitate a meeting before the Assessment was signed off to look at it in more detail.
- 68 Mr Andell said that the Assessment seemed to be a completely new format replacing the old Community Safety Audit and the earlier local crime and victimisation studies, which democratically used social surveys to include communities in bringing together a community safety plan. Mr Andell said that he not seen in any Home Office guidance for the Strategic Assessment that it was not a public document and he wondered whether it was local decision for it not to be so. Furthermore, Mr Andell said that the Highlight Standards that came in for

COMMUNITY-POLICE

CONSULTATIVE GROUP



community safety in October last year set great store in community consultation and by asking for a response by 17 March would perhaps not meet those standards, but the Group was happy to help in any way in could.

- 69 Mr Wade said had a good cross-section of public opinion had been gained from a fear of crime survey across all Lambeth Wards last July, although it was very difficult to engage with people living on estates. For 6 out of 10 people in Lambeth, Mr Wade said that crime and reducing crime was their priority while just 50% interviewed said that they reported crimes to the police.
- 70 Fernado Senior said that estates had Tennant Associations which could have been consulted while Paul Reynolds said that the whole purpose of Communities First was to engage with people difficult to reach.
- Mr Wainwright said the Group had been talking about the same things and making the same points as Mr Wade had for year on year on year, and that there was a theory, to which many adhered, that many problems in Lambeth stemmed from Lambeth slashing of its Youth Service budget by 80% in 1997. Ten years on, Mr Wainwright said that people thought Lambeth had since been reaping the whirlwind of that measure. As a result, Mr Wainwright said that the Council needed to pour in huge resources in this area to make for what happened in the 1990s. Cllr. Bennett said that he took Mr Wainwright's point and said that the Council was planning huge new investment in youth services.
- 72 A member of the public said that it was obvious that the causal indicator in Lambeth that drove gang culture and the question of black identity was its style of dress, codes, language, violent computer games, talking about women as if they were prostitutes and about guns. He proposed that the community needed to support the police, youth leaders and outdoor pursuit centres rather than going into statistics. He added the violent youth culture was a culture of death and not just a fashion.
- 73 Mr Andell said that in talking about a meaningful analysis of youth, more specifically gang culture, which in some cases was a subculture formed by people who couldn't aspire to mainstream norms and values due to limited expectations and blocked opportunities. In

- Lambeth, Mr Andell said that the community should ensure that those with the greatest need should be given the most assistance so they can aspire to legitimate, successful targets.
- 74 In terms of statistics, Mr Andell said that there was a need to triangulate both the meaningful data and the verifiable data together to arrive at sensible and understandable initiatives that the Partnership could take on and move forward with. Mr Andell reiterated that he would welcome further consultation, workshop style, to make the objectives of the Partnership meaningful to the community.
- 75 In response to Mr Tomlinson, who said that he was not aware of any consultation with Safer Neighbourhood (SN) Panels, which set priorities for their SN teams, Ms Rowe said that while he had not been consulted personally every Ward's priorities had been fed into the process. Further, to Paul Reynolds, she said that the Partnership Plan would not affect the Safer Neighbourhood Ward priorities
- 76 In respect of where guns were coming from, Ms Rowe said that they were already here, coming in through the post, the Channel Tunnel and all sorts of other ways with not only one community to blame for it.
- 77 Ms Rowe said that the Assessment, which was based on qualitative and quantitative evidence, could be published. In respect of statistics, she said that these were a necessary as they represented the police's crime recording standards. She said that Partnership also analysed trends, and listened to what people said in surveys and interviews and used various other sources of information.
- 78 Ms Rowe said that the Assessment, and the Plan was not just about holding the police to account but the whole Partnership. She added that the Group would receive a update every month.
- 79 Ms Tapsell said the Group would organise a meeting to discuss the Strategic Assessment further within the next few weeks.

Date of next Meeting 6.00 p.m. TUESDAY, 4 March 2008

Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall SW2