

Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall SW2 1RW

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell (Chairperson), Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Gill Kenealy, Jim Toohill (Ind. Membs), Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society, Wesley Stephenson (Your Story), Jane Warwick (Appropriate Adults) **COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP:** Jean Carpenter (Flipside), David Hart (Clapham Community Partnership), Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market Traders Federation), Lloyd Leon (Lambeth ICVs), The Most Reverend Bancroft McCarthy (HMP Brixton IMB), Nick Mason (Lambeth Summer Projects), Hazel Saunders (Victim Support Lambeth), Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road Res. Assoc.) **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:** Hope Barratt, Richard Dutton, Rosemarie Falaiye, Peter Harris, John Howard, Lena James, David Prichard-Jones, Clare Moore, Richard Moore, Cheryl Sealey, Jean Slater, **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: MPA** Martin Davis, John Roberts, Charlene Brown **LAMBETH COUNCIL** Cllr. Kingsley Abrahams Ann Corbett (Head, Community Safety) **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe, Det. Supt. John Corrigan, Supt. Dave Musker, Supt. Alistair Sutherland, A/Supt. Rob Harper, Ch. Insp. Patrick Beynon, Ch. Insp. Suzanne Wallace, PC John Jeffrey, Mark Rowland, Linda Soudine

VISITORS: Elaine Amouza, Everton Augustus, Chris Barrett, Kelly ben Maimon, A. Boothe, Pauline Bower, E. Brown, S. Brown, Wayne Brown, Pauline Bunell, David Clark, Sophie Clarke, John Cheetham, Jade Collins, J. Cundasamy, Rebekah Del Sol, Alan Douglas Smith, Wayne Douglas, Dahlia Ellis, Harriet Emmanuel, Neil Evans, Julie Fawcett, Pat Fisher, A. Francis, Elette Francis, Joy Fraser, P. B. Gayle, Gloria Gomez, D. Goring, C. Grant, Ros Griffiths, P. Jackson, Ridley Jackson, N. James, Lee Jasper, Maxine Latouche, Ashley Letts, Carol Lewis, Jennifer McDermott, Dave Maddox, Lorna Malcolm, Nabil Mezoughi, Courtney Millanaise, Ukent Milwood, Sandra Moodie, M. Mowatt, Graham Nicholls, J. Osho, L. Redmond, R. Redway, Keith Shaw, Camella Shield, Nigel Stubbs, P. Sullivan, Merlene Vaughan, Clive Wakely, Leon Watson (South London Press), Ching Wah Wong, Jacob Whittingham, Pam Williams, Rebecca Williams, Nat Wye

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Diana Braithwaite, Neil Flanigan, Jack Hopkins, Brian Mantell, Paul Reynolds, David Tomlinson, George Tuson, Arulini Velmurugu

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

Introduction

- 1 On behalf of the Group, Anna Tapsell expressed condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Selwyn Scott (Scottie) who had died unexpectedly on the 13 June. Scottie, a stalwart of community service, was still active as an Independent Custody Visitor to Lambeth Police Stations and a member of the Lambeth Independent Appropriate Adults Scheme [roles he had fulfilled for many years] as well as regularly attending CPCG meetings up to the time of his sudden death.
- 2 Jane Warwick said that the community was indebted to Scottie for his work in helping vulnerable people and said that to say he would be missed was an understatement.

Ms Warwick thanked everyone, including many police officers, who attended a packed Requiem Mass on 27 June.

Minutes of the Meeting 3 June 2008

- 3 The minutes were accepted with the following amendment: Add Arulini Velmurugu to those present.
- 4 Matters Arising were addressed at the end of the meeting.

Lambeth Police Update

- 5 One year since becoming Lambeth's Borough Commander, Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe recalled how shocked and appalled she had been in her first weeks at the level of violence in the borough, and how much more was needed to address the matter.
- 6 Acknowledging the victims of gun, knife and other violent crime in Lambeth, Ms Rowe said that contributions from the police, Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) and the community over the past twelve months had led to a move towards making Lambeth feel safer; with the number of local murders and gun crime halved and robbery reduced by 25%. However, with Lambeth's murder rate the highest in the country, if not Europe, Ms Rowe said that there was still a long way to go and violent crime remained her top priority.
- 7 With detailed analysis of murder in Lambeth highlighting issues involving drugs, street crime, robbery, knives and gangs, Ms Rowe said that police were focusing on the individuals who caused most harm to the community, whether they were adults or young people, using a variety of tactics including targeting criminal gangs, gun crime initiatives, knife arches and Stop and Search.
- 8 In addition to enforcement, Ms Rowe said that prevention work had been both rewarding and successful, to the extent that work with the Council, schools and parents on new ideas to divert young people from gang criminality had attracted police forces from around the country to see what Lambeth had put in place.

- 9 With regard to initiatives carried out over the previous month, Ms Rowe highlighted the targeting of gangs, mainly in the Kennington area, resulting in 41 search warrants and 32 arrests being made for robbery, violent disorder and drugs.
- 10 Furthermore, police officers had made 18 home visits to talk with, and offer help to, the families of young people involved, to some extent, with gangs. Currently, Ms Rowe said that 16 parents had signed up to a parent contact group working together with police to find solutions to prevent young people's involvement in criminal activity.
- 11 During the last month, Ms Rowe said that a number of drugs warrants had been executed in Streatham resulting in the seizure of drugs and money with charges of intent to supply made.
- 12 While a Knife Arch operation conducted at Waterloo had not led to the recovery of any knives, Ms Rowe said that many positive comments had been received from commuters. In Stockwell, meanwhile, she said that a crack house had been closed, and in Princes Ward a Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), using CCTV, had identified a group of young robbers, since arrested and charged.
- 13 During the past month Lambeth police task forces had recovered thousands of pounds and drugs linked to gang members. In one drug operation concerning a gang working in Brixton, 10 arrests, 12 search warrants and 48 charges of supply of drugs had been made as a result of community intelligence given to a local SNT.
- 14 In response to Kelly ben Maimon, who questioned why the recent police action against criminal activity on Moorlands Estate had taken so long when residents had been complaining for years, Supt. Dave Musker said that having embedded a management team where it could be successful, the key issues had been targeting the right people and ensuring good evidence to secure a conviction. Supt. Musker said that the follow on would be a significant improvement across Coldharbour, which was all part of an interlinked strategy and partnership moving towards a better and safer Ward.
- 15 Gill Kenealy added that Coldharbour SN Panel had agreed that drug dealing was a policing priority on Moorlands Estate and that the residents were very happy that the scourge of heavy drug dealing had, for the present, been eradicated.
- 16 In respect of MPS-wide anti-knife initiative, Operation Blunt, Ms Rowe said that 36 operations had taken place in Lambeth with 48 knives recovered. Furthermore, five firearms had been recovered as a result of 22 police operations.
- 17 Despite successes, Ms Rowe said that she remained concerned about youth and violent crime, and asked whether the Group shared her view about the top priority for the borough. She therefore invited feedback about police activity over the past year and whether or not the community felt it had made a difference.
- 18 Ms Tapsell congratulated Kennington police for the work undertaken with parents; who rightly wanted to know what the police knew about their children, who themselves were concerned about their safety, and what they were up to. This, she said, gave parents the opportunity to have a dialogue with police, without prejudice, and address matters before their children got themselves into more difficulty.
- 19 In response to Richard Moore's question regarding a plan for police in Brixton Town Centre reportedly coming under the direction of a Council officer, Ms Rowe said that Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) had secured a significant amount of investment for a multi-agency team, Operation Sentinel, to respond to issues specific to Brixton Town Centre. However, having not seen a job description for a Director of Brixton Town Centre, she said that she hadn't agreed to anything at this moment in time.
- 20 Ms Rowe said that from her perspective Brixton had been a long term problem in Lambeth which no previous borough commander, chief executive, administration or community had solved on its own, and in order to make a difference the details of all responsibilities needed to be worked on.
- 21 Mr Moore said that he would take Ms Rowe's response as a categorical "No".
- 22 In response to Richard Dutton, Acting Supt. Rob Harper said that while he was unable to report on the outcome of a particular initiative

between local community officers and residents in West Norwood, tactics that had been successful in the north of the borough had been recognised as good practice and were replicated in the south.

- 23 In response to John Howard's concerns about people, not least youths, being sent to prison for minor crimes, Ms Rowe said that sentencing was an issue for the courts, whilst Lambeth police were using tactics in addition to enforcement, such as meeting with young people's families. In response to Mr Howard's assertion that people carrying knives didn't go through Knife Arches, Ms Rowe said that their use was one of a number of tactics used to reduce the number of knives in the community.
- 24 In relation to police interventions, Ms Rowe said that there needed to be a wider community debate about the balance between human rights and right to life, on the one hand, with civil liberties and right to privacy on the other.
- 25 Mrs Lynn Thomas said that the reason for young people carrying guns and knives, and ending up behind bars, was the result of the government removing the rights of parents and teachers to discipline children.
- 26 Lloyd Leon said that he was not aware of anything that had been put in writing that gave the police the legal right to stop a young person who had done nothing wrong and take his or her photograph.
- 27 Ms Tapsell said that the Group had taken legal advice from Liberty concerning the matter of police stopping people, particularly minors, and taking their photograph. She said that anyone who wanted a copy of the advice should contact the Group office.
- 28 In response to Liberty's advice, Ms Tapsell said that the police were seeking their own legal advice from New Scotland Yard, since the issue was one that not only affected Lambeth but also whole of London and the rest of the country.

(S&SMG): Paul Andell, Ch. Insp. Patrick Beynon and Jim Toohill (see attached).

- 30 Paul Andell said that the monitoring of Stop and Search played an important part in benchmarking what had changed over the years in terms of how and when it was used. With an increase in the legal powers for the use of Stop and Search, he said that questions had been raised about the difference in arrest rates for each power and how public confidence was affected. In this respect, Mr Andell said that the S&SMG's key question was about how to balance the intrusiveness of the powers against their success.
- 31 Jim Toohill presented an update on statistical monitoring of Stop and Search since the last presentation to a CPCG meeting, a year earlier. Key points were:
- 31.1 The falling numbers of Stops and Searches in the borough had now flattened out, as had the previous rising trend in arrest rate;
- 31.2 In consequence, the reduction in the number of people who 'walk away' from Stops and Searches ie on whom nothing is found, remained lower than in earlier years.
- 31.3 Nonetheless, Lambeth continued to see reductions in volume crime and sustained or rising sanction detection rates for such crimes.
- 31.4 Disproportionality towards Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups remained lower than that across London generally and whereas, a year previously, disproportionality had been rising, this was now being pulled back.
- 31.5 There had been a continuing shift in the mix of reasons for Stops and Searches. In the most recent year this was most marked in the proportion which was for weapons. There was an associated downward shift in the age mix of those Stopped and Searched.
- 31.6 The proportion of arrests following Stop and Search which were for a reason other than that of the Search had dropped below 50%, suggesting an improvement in targeting.
- 31.7 Stop and Account continued to increase and with near static numbers of Stop and Search, now accounted for around 50% of all Stops on an ongoing basis. Mr Toohill pointed out, however, that Stop and Account was

Stop and Search

- 29 The Group received a presentation from the Group's Stop and Search Monitoring Group

- originally envisaged to be a less confrontational substitute for Stop and Search, not an addition to it. Overall, members of BME communities were *less* likely to be Stop and Accounted.
- 31.8 From the end of 2006, there had been a pronounced increase in the numbers of Section 60 Stop and Searches. These searches (which have no requirement for 'good grounds') have a very low arrest rate and are much more disproportionate to Black people than PACE Stop and Searches.
- 31.9 There had likewise been a prodigious increase in Section 44 Terrorism Stops and Searches. The Searches also require no 'good grounds', have a low arrest rate but in this case are disproportionately carried out on people of Asian ethnicity. Black people are *less* likely to be stopped under s44 than are White people.
- 31.10 The monitoring group had learned during the year that not all Stops and Searches carried out by the Territorial Support Group had been entered onto the central MPS Stop and Search database but had been assured that this was now taking place.
- 32 Ch. Insp. Patrick Beynon highlighted the following S&SMG data:
- 33 Lambeth police had increased the number of Stop and Account, i.e. a Stop not necessitating a search, against the number of Stop and Search on the borough in response to Recommendation 61 of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry.
- 34 During April, the Stop and Account in Lambeth accounted for 64% of all stops compared to 56% across London as a whole.
- 35 Lambeth Stop and Search arrest rate was over 12% [in the top five of London's 32 boroughs] compared to an average arrest rate of 9.5% for London.
- 36 The number of black and Asian youths between 11 and 17 years (per thousand of population) being stopped in Lambeth were fewer than the London average.
- 37 Lambeth police's intelligence-led approach to Stop and Search had contributed to a decrease in crime over the past year, which included reductions of 21% of serious acquisitive crime, 12.5% of knife crime, 20.8% of robbery, 30% of youth crime and 50% of gun crime.
- 38 In response to member of the public, Ch. Insp. John Dale, Territorial Support Group (TSG), said that the TSG supported local police on different boroughs and on occasion conducted Stop and Search. However, he said that that due to an administrative problem, which had since been redressed, not all TSG Stop and Search data had been made available for the MPS central Stop and Search database.
- 39 On the point of the TSG presence at the meeting, Ms Tapsell said that she was pleased to see the TSG represented and hoped they would attend more regularly to make a contribution and explain the role and work of the TSG.
- 40 Members of the public made the following contributions to the debate:
- 41 The taking of photographs of children involved in Stop and Search should not be allowed, and that the Stop of any children should be immediately reported to parents.
- 42 Concerns were raised about the number and percentage of black boys having problems with the police and being held in prison, and that parents should question what was happening and being done to their black boys.
- 43 The issue was not so much about Stop and Search *per se*, or whether or not a suspected crime had been committed, but rather the treatment by police and the abuse or disrespect towards those they had stopped.
- 44 While the police needed information to help find solutions, they had lost the trust of some parts of the community over many years.
- 45 Community cohesion could only come about when the police started to treat people in a way they themselves would like to be treated, which could not happen while police had recourse to so many Stop and Search powers.
- 46 Stop and Search was not effective and therefore should be discontinued and not used on the generation of young people coming through.

- 47 While not agreeing with Stop and Search and the taking of photographs of young people, some agreement had to be reached which would lead to young people carrying knives being taken off the streets.
- 48 Although Stop and Search seemed to be a necessary evil, some police officers had a particular mindset and needed to be retrained, and that the profiling of black people had to be stopped.
- 49 With all the powers police had for Stop and Search, officers didn't always give a reason for why they had stopped someone.
- 50 Provocative behaviour from police officers was breeding terrorists.
- 51 Supt. Alistair Sutherland gave the following responses to comments and questions:
- 52 Valid points had been made about the way police conducted Stop and Search in that they must be carried out in a professional manner with individuals treated with respect, a norm to which Lambeth police were committed.
- 53 All police officers received training in Stop and Search in terms of adherence to legislation and the professional manner in which it should be conducted. However, police welcomed being made aware of any issues with regard to training, lack of respect and complaints.
- 54 Stop and Search had been in practice since the 19th Century but the current, covering legislative framework was the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
- 55 The MPS was committed to ensuring that it was representative of the community it served. Presently, around 9% of the Service came from minority communities and, while there was some way to go, the efforts to achieve that figure over recent years had to be acknowledged.
- 56 Parents had a role to play in managing their children before the stage police became involved. However, having realised that Stop and Search and executing search warrants was not the way to achieve a long term solution, Lambeth police were committed to working with parents before their children found themselves entering the criminal justice system
- 57 In Lambeth, there were more diversionary activities available to youngsters than ever before with new projects and youth clubs opening for longer hours, while, for the first time, police were funding places in Lambeth for young people to fulfil their time usefully.
- 58 In relation to taking photographs of youths and adults, over 90% of images held by the police were of individuals who already had convictions for criminal offences. With regard to the remaining 10% of photographs, police had valid reasons to believe that they were of persons involved with gangs, and were used to show parents the individuals with whom their children were associating.
- 59 ***The Group's concerns about police stopping and photographing people, and the legal advice obtained from Liberty, were being studied by the MPS's legal department. Police undertook to ensure that once the legal aspect had been thoroughly examined the outcome would be fed back to the Group.***
- 60 There was a very strict policy in terms of control and management of photographs taken by police, which had to be authorised by a police superintendent, with leaflets offering advice given to those subjected to being photographed.
- 61 The MPS policy for taking photographs of certain individuals had been in existence since 1997, a fact which the police were surprised to find was unknown to the Group.
- 62 Charlene Brown, Chair of the MPA's Independent Advisory Group (IAG) on Young People, which sought to engage young people in dialogue with police and breakdown barriers, said that the IAG was seeking to introduce borough-wide IAGs to enable young people to talk about issues which affected them, such as Stop and Search and complaints against the police.
- 63 A member of the public said that for the welfare of young people, the community needed to work and cooperate with the police. However, she said that their policies and procedures needed to include the community with an opportunity to check that the police were doing their work as public servants accountable to the community.
- 64 In response, Mr Toohill said that anyone who wanted to be part of the S&SMG, which

- monitored Stop and Search figures and personal experiences on a monthly basis, should leave their details with him or to contact the Group office.
- 65 PC John Jeffrey, Police Federation representative for Lambeth, said that many police officers in Lambeth felt hamstrung with regard to Stop and Search because of the attitude of some officers, although at the same time police had to face attitude problems from some members of the public. Nevertheless, used properly, PC Jeffrey said that Stop and Search was a good prevention tool for stopping people carrying guns, knives and other weapons, which could prevent a death, an objective which the community, parents and police needed to work together to achieve.
- 66 Ros Griffiths said that she agreed with Stop and Search as long as it was intelligence led. However, while the police was doing its job to a certain extent, she said that elected officials in the community, i.e. councillors, were the people the community wanted to hear from. Young people, she said, could not find work when CRBs [criminal record checks] were more important than CVs, If the Council was serious about crime prevention, she said that it needed to put money and resources into the community to make it happen. Cohesion, she added, needed to start with a structure of the police, community and Council working together with action to bring about change.
- 67 Julie Fawcett, a Stockwell Park resident for 28 years, said that her local community was diverse with a very low crime rate, yet there was an issue of black youths being ghettoised when they were part of the solution to gun and knife crime. With no work or progression or rites of passage, she said that boredom was a problem for a swathe of young people across the country as a result of having no prospects and a lousy education, such as Lambeth had delivered.
- 68 While Ms Fawcett was complimentary about some community police officers, she said that the same couldn't be said about TSG officers, some of whose attitude and behaviour she described as disgusting.
- 69 A Lambeth resident of 40 years said that Stop and Search leading to arrests without charge was criminalising young people when instead they should be helped by the funding of youth centres and employing youth workers to whom they could relate. Otherwise, he said that in twenty years time the community would still be talking about the same problems as those that they did in the 1980s.
- 70 A resident who worked with young people said that on one occasion he had seen three police officers harassing two young boys in such an abusive manner that if he was to behave in the same way towards his students he would be out of a job. At other times, he said that he heard young police officers calling older black men 'boy'.
- 71 The same resident also said that when his son asked him what he should do after having recently been assaulted on Wandsworth Common, he was unable to bring himself to tell him to phone the police.
- 72 Another resident said that there were people making a lot of money from supplying guns and knives who were accountable for the loss of young people's lives and something had to be done about it.
- 73 Sandra Moodie, who had raised the issue of police photographing young people at the Group's meeting in May, said that a photograph taken of her son had been destroyed in her presence and an assurance given that the image had been removed from the police database. She said that she would not want to see her son's photograph to emerge many years later and used by police, as in an instance mentioned by another person at the meeting.
- 74 With regard to the Stop and Search form concerning her son, Ms Moodie said that it wasn't given to him at the time of the Stop and that she had received it a week later, while the form did not state that her son had been photographed. The legality of photographing young people notwithstanding, Ms Moodie said that the form needed to be revised and parents informed the same day. Furthermore, she said that police needed to be more transparent and put out more information to parents and schools in relation to the policing young people.
- 75 Ms Tapsell emphasised that one of the main concerns raised by the Group when seeking legal advice was the capacity of young

- people to know and understand their rights in terms of being able to refuse having their photographs taken by police.
- 76 Ms Rowe thanked everyone for participating in the discussion and for expressing their views and feelings around Stop and Search. She said that she hope to continue hearing people's criticism in order to improve community and police relations and instil confidence in the community about making complaints to the police or the Independent Police Complaints Commission. In this respect, she said it could require thinking differently about how complaints could be brought to authorities' attention.
- 77 Ms Rowe said that the issue of young people using guns and knives was a serious business with young men, the public and police officers at risk of being shot and stabbed. With regard to finding answers, she said that she had heard a great deal of passion and if people came up with ideas for solutions she would find the funding for them.
- 81 Mr Toohill that the advice from Liberty took some time to arrive and in the meantime, ahead of the June meeting, Supt Sutherland had informed him that the police had decided to reinstate 'Stop and Snap'. Being out of London at the time, he had relayed this to the Chair by a voicemail message but clearly this had not been explicit enough since Ms Tapsell was not aware of the reinstatement at the June meeting.
- 82 In response to Mr Leon, Ms Rowe said that she had made the decision to resume OFP after examining and reviewing the way that the tactic was used. At present, she said that discussions about Liberty's advice had yet to take place. However, Ms Rowe said that OFP was a tactic used nationally and was supported by the Home Secretary. Nevertheless, she said that there was respect for Lambeth for challenging the tactic on behalf of London.
- 83 A member of the public who commented on the overt drug dealing on the streets of Brixton urged police to deal with the matter and get on with issues in the community that were out of order.

Matters Arising

- 78 John Howard said that the fact Overt Filming/Photography of people had to be *authorised* by a Superintendent suggested that no law existed to sanction its use and that no Superintendent superceded the law. With regard to the police taking legal advice on the matter, Mr Howard said that such action should have been considered before police used OFP in the first instance. [Min 10. 03/06/08]
- 79 In response to Lloyd Leon, Det. Supt. John Corrigan said that he had been on three weeks annual leave when the decision to resume the suspended OFP tactic had been made, which was why his understanding had differed from Supt. Dave Musker [Min.14. 03/06/06].
- 80 Mr Toohill said that following the May Group meeting, the police had decided to suspend the use of 'Stop and Snap' and had pressed the Group for a position. The Group's response had been that the decision to suspend [or reinstate] 'Stop and Snap' was an operational matter for the police and that for its part, the Group would await legal advice.
- 84 In terms of drug treatment and prevention, Ms Tapsell said that Lambeth Council officers and others working in this area needed to be present at Group meetings to inform the community about the resources directed at drug issues and what had been achieved.
- 85 Mr Moore said that OFP was not an issue about police cameras per se but rather about the process within the police themselves. He said that he saw the police as having a prime objective of prevention and only to be used as enforcers as a last resort, and his concern was about getting the law, the last line of defence, right.
- 86 With regard to the use of OFP, Mr Moore said that he wanted to know which members of the Association of Chief Police Officers it was who allowed OFP to become national policy to be taken up by individual police forces. In addition, he said that OFP was an issue that needed to be put a wider community than the Group, which had taken one view.

**Next Meeting: 6.00 p.m. 2 September, 2008
Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall SW2**