

Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall SW2

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell (Chairperson), Paul Andell, Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Gill Kenealy, Shane Collins, Jim Toohill (Ind. Membs), Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Ros Munday (Clapham Community Partnership) **COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP:** Cathy Tayleure (Clapham Town N'hood Watch), Brian Mantell (South London Synagogue), Keith Shaw (WIESA), David Hart (Clapham Community Partnership), Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market Traders Assoc.), Lloyd Leon (Lambeth ICVs), Anna Long (Churches Together in Clapham), Nick Mason (Lambeth Summer Projects), Hazel Saunders (Victim Support Lambeth), George Tuson (Streatham Common Southside NW) Arulini Velmurugu (Lambeth Towers/Road TRA), Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road Residents Assoc.), **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:** Hope Barrett, Rod Brown, Richard Dutton, Rosemarie Falaiye, Peter Harris, John Howard, Lena James, David Prichard-Jones, Richard Moore, Fernando Senior **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: MPA** Nathan Oley; **LAMBETH COUNCIL** Cllr. Donatus Anyanwu, Cllr. Diane Braithwaite, Cllr. Darren Sanders, Cllr. Julian Heather, Cllr. Andrew Sawdon, Ann Corbett, Adina Bozga (Community Safety); **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe, Ch. Supt. Mick Johnson, Supt. Alistair Sutherland, Supt. Paul Wilson, Sgt. Ronnie Whelan

VISITORS: Dolly Adams, Elaine Amouza, Rasta Brown, Don Bruce, John Cheetham, David Clark, Zenobia Cowan-Davies, Alan Douglas-Smith, Chris Nicolson, Tibor Fischer, Pat Fisher, Frances Forrest, Elette Francis, E. Goldson, Althea Gordon-Davidson, M. Gordon, D. Gosling, Elaine Holness, Oscar Isaac, Alfred John, David McFarlane, Sandra Moodie, Rahul Patel, Alison Patten, June Pilgrim, Bevan Powell, Manju Roy, Adeela Shabazz, K. Sullivan, P. Sullivan, Sara Tomlinson, Graham Walker, Douglas Wavalaica, Emma Wild-Bruce, A. Williams

APOLOGIES: Vincent Atkins, Pauline Bower, Wally Channon, Rowena Estwick, Paul Reynolds, John Roberts, Cheryl Sealey, Abdul Sultan Virani, David Tomlinson, Peggy Tyler, Jane Warwick

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

Introduction

- 1 Anna Tapsell welcomed Ch. Supt. Mick Johnson, Territorial Support Group (TSG) to the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting 4 March 2008

- 2 Minutes of the Meeting 1 July 2008 were accepted without amendment.

Matters Arising

- 3 John Howard asked that the Group's appreciation for the Stop and Search Monitoring Group's work and excellent presentation at the last meeting be noted.

Lambeth Police Update

- 4 Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lambeth police performance since the last Group meeting (see attached).
- 5 A Brixton Hill resident, Don Bruce, raised the issue of prostitution in the Brixton Hill area, which the Tulse Safer Neighbourhood Panel/Team (SNP/T) had identified as a priority, although the SNT was currently without a sergeant. Mr Bruce said that apart from the serious issue of the vulnerability of the women operating in the area, it wasn't fair that children *should have to suffer the impact of this activity around their homes.*
- 6 Mr Bruce said that while the actions of a Vice-Squad, since disbanded, hadn't solved the problem of prostitution it did keep the problem in check, and he asked if there would be a review on the matter of the Vice-Squad's reinstatement.
- 7 Ch. Insp. Neil Evans said that there were joint operations being undertaken by Tulse Hill and Brixton Hill SNTs in relation to vice issues. With regard to the departure of the Tulse Hill SNT police sergeant, Ms Rowe said that a replacement would be installed as soon as possible.
- 8 With regard to reviewing her decision about the Vice-Squad, Ms Rowe said that every March policing structures and the investments she had made in relation to resources were evaluated. In response to significant rises in particular crimes, she said that she would invest more in those areas where and when it was needed.
- 9 Furthermore, Ms Rowe said that every year, the Partnership produced an annual report which examined all the themes and crime trends identified across Lambeth's twenty-one wards by each SNP, which should have provided an opportunity to pick up on vice issues. Ms Rowe said that in the last crime report to be recently compiled, Lambeth's Strategic Assessment, vice had not featured high on the agenda of the Partnership's priorities, although she said that may need to change.
- 10 In response to Rod Brown, Ms Rowe said that while there had been huge reductions in

- Gun Crime (41.7%), Personal Robbery (18.9%) and Serious Acquisitive Crime (16.1%), the overall reduction in crime of 4.7% was due to taking all Total Notifiable Offences into account.
- 11 Ch. Supt. Mick Johnson gave an account of a police operation which had taken place on Bank Holiday Monday, 26 August, in which 172 youths were *apprehended* en route to the Notting Hill Carnival and detained at the Oval before being taken to Sutton police station to be processed.
 - 12 Ch. Supt. Johnson said that three of those detained were thirteen years of age and seven individuals were from Lambeth. The remainder, he said, were from Greenwich, Lewisham and Southwark, amongst which a number of gang members had been identified. The operation had taken place as a result of intelligence that a number of youths were going to the Carnival to cause trouble.
 - 13 Supt. Alistair Sutherland, who was on duty at the Carnival over the Bank Holiday weekend, said that violent incidents between different factions had already occurred during the celebrations and that a number of police officers had been injured in trying to keep the peace. Supt. Sutherland said that he believed police had done the right thing to use the police intelligence and prevent further possible violence and injury to members of the public and police.
 - 14 In response to Richard Dutton, Ch. Supt. Mick Johnson said that only one person had been arrested with a weapon, although other weapons were found in a nearby estate.
 - 15 A member of the public, who was present at the Carnival, said that she had witnessed a number of random Stop and Searches and asked whether this had incited hostility i.e. young people throwing bottles at the police
 - 16 A member of the public, Rahul Patel, asked Ms Rowe if the police could produce straightforward crime statistics showing numbers and percentages broken down Ward by Ward to facilitate analysis of priorities raised, and whether they could be made available on the police website.
 - 17 Mr Rahul said that he could see a *pattern emerging where* politicians across the parties were, with the media, *vilifying young black men, day in and day out ; this leading to them becoming targets of Stop and Search and overt filming by officers in body amour as they went about their daily lives.* Mr Patel said that this was leading to a build up of resentment in young people, as had been seen in the past, towards police and local authority.
 - 18 Mr Patel said that while police had painted a picture of a straightforward operation he was quite certain that the innocent young people cooped up in buses and taken a long way out of the borough, not knowing what was happening to them, were attended by unfriendly and aggressive police officers. Furthermore, Mr Patel said he didn't believe that any of the few charges brought against the young people would stand and that judgement of the operation should be made on figures for conviction and not arrest.
 - 19 Mr Patel drew comparisons between young black people seeking to go to the Carnival from south London, by travelling via the Oval, and the hundreds of largely white people who converged on the Brixton Academy on a regular basis to see concerts without any interference by the police.
 - 20 By linking the issue of the Oval to the incidents of violence that had taken place at the Carnival, Mr Patel said that Supt. Sutherland was causing a build up of resentment against the police by using 'spin' to justify police action. Whilst understanding the emotion in relation to police officers being injured, Mr Patel said that police needed to take into account the mental injury caused on a daily basis by the police's attitude in conducting Stop and Search.
 - 21 Mr Patel said that he did not accept the police's view about the need for the police operation and that it should be further examined. Furthermore, Mr Patel said that having contributed towards the denigration of young black men, the police should apologise for their own behaviour to those they had detained.
 - 22 Ch. Supt. Johnson said he believed that the incidents of violence in Ladbrooke Grove were caused by two rival gangs in the Carnival

- area looking for a fight, for motives unknown, with the police doing its job to get in between the two groups.
- 23 Mr Johnson said that in his view it was not a case of police officers picking on young black men and that the tactic used to prevent a breach of the peace at the Carnival was the same as had previously been used to prevent people being hurt, seriously injured or even killed. Mr Johnson added that there had been other times in which groups of people, largely white, had been detained over a period of time and taken to other places.
- 24 Mr Johnson said that good intelligence and identification of individuals as members of south London gangs was the reason for authorising the operation.
- 25 With regard to the arresting officers at the Oval, Mr Johnson said that they were highly trained and well supervised with all the individuals arrested told why they were being taken to Sutton and the reasons for the police action. In respect of conviction rates, Mr Johnson said that the whole process was a preventative measure to ensure safety to the highest possible standards for the day in question.
- 26 In respect of the BBC's presence during the operation, Mr Johnson said that the publicity received was nothing to do with the police. In respect of apologising to the youths, Mr Johnson said that he would be quite happy to do so if he had made a mistake or done something wrong, *but on this occasion he said he did not believe that to be the case.*
- 27 With regard to the welfare of the youths, *Mr Johnson said that when the buses arrived at Sutton all of them were checked as to their welfare needs and none had their mobile phones taken away from them.*
- 28 In relation to juveniles, Mr Johnson said that those under 17 years of age were, to the best of his knowledge, later taken home and delivered into the hands of a responsible adult or guardian. Although he didn't have specific details about the times individuals were released, Mr Johnson said that he would share a full report with the Group.
- 29 Ms Rowe said that last October the Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) had invested in the analysis of intelligence to understand the gang picture in London. In doing so, she said that the Lambeth community acknowledged that it had a problem with criminal gangs in the borough and had acquired an in-depth understanding of them.
- 30 In relation to the Oval operation, Ms Rowe said that police officers from Southwark and Kennington Task Force were called in to identify the main figures in the [detained] group, many of whom were wearing gang colours, amongst them Peckham Young Guns and All 'Bout Money. Ms Rowe said that information about their intentions at the Carnival had been received from the community.
- 31 In relation to Mr Patel's question about crime statistics, Ms Rowe said that in terms of the percentage reduction, there had 600 fewer victims of serious acquisitive crime while there been 150 and 43 fewer victims of robbery and gun crimes respectively. Ms Rowe added that each borough's crime statistics could be found on the MPS website broken down by ward and that ward-based SNPs could provide local statistics at their meetings.
- 32 A member of the public asked for further information about an incident which had occurred over the previous weekend concerning a young black boy who had died as, she believed, he was being pursued by police. As there appeared to have been no publicity about the incident she said that nobody knew the full story.
- 33 The member of the public also said that while there was a great deal of talk, nobody seemed to be doing anything about knife crime and taking knives off the street. She commented that some high street stores removed products, such as perfume, from their packaging to prevent theft, yet knives were not kept out of sight in the shops and market stalls and their sales remained unregulated.
- 34 Ch. Inspector Alex Gibbs, MPS Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS), said that the tragic incident *to which the lady had referred* involved a young person riding a scooter and that the investigation was being

- carried out by the DPS and overseen by the Independent Police Complaints Commission, who decided which enquiries needed to take place how the investigation should be run.
- 35 Ch. Insp. Gibbs said that the process of the investigation was painstakingly slow and thorough in order to find out precisely what had happened on the night and ensure that information put out at any one point of time was completely accurate. However, Ch. Insp. Gibbs said that the evidence at moment suggested that the youth had not been knocked off his scooter.
- 36 In relation to publicity about the incident, Ch. Insp. Gibbs said that it was a very important issue and that he could understand why the community wanted answers quickly. However, he said that it would be completely wrong for police to give speculative responses before all the evidence had been gathered in a proper, thorough and accountable way. Furthermore, he said that police had to consider the youth's family and that decisions had to take into account their wishes.
- 37 Ms Tapsell said that the Group would return to the incident once further information was forthcoming and when the investigation had been completed and its findings shared with the young person's family. In the meantime, Ms Tapsell said that on 9 September at the Karibu Centre there would be a follow-up meeting held about some of *the issues and tensions existing between the BME community and the police*.
- 38 A member of the public said that he was very saddened by the way police treated people in Brixton. For example, he said that a few days earlier a police car had drawn up alongside him and a friend as they were cycling in Stockwell and that the officers had shouted at him to 'get out of the road', although they did not seem to be in any hurry.
- 39 Referring to the problem with youth gangs, he said that all he saw was the police going around in gangs and bullying people without anyone being able to respond for fear of arrest. Furthermore, he said that if he started to film the police he would likely have his camera confiscated. As a law abiding citizen and taxpayer, he said that he should be treated somewhat better and that uniformed police officers should not be legalised to bully people.
- 40 A member of the public said that the public needed a police service, but one which acted responsibly. However, from listening to a witness at the Carnival he said that some police officers appeared to have not acted responsibly and professionally. He added that some police officers did not know how to talk to people and that he himself had witnessed unnecessary use of police restraint in Brixton.
- 41 In relation to filming people, he suggested that the police should start recording *their encounters from the earliest point to capture through to the whole event* since some police officers didn't conduct themselves in a civil manner when dealing with youths.
- 42 Cllr. Diane Braithwaite asked for clarification in respect of the process for filtering the footage from Stop and Filming, once it was realised to be of no use, and how it was monitored to ensure that it was not abused.
- 43 Cllr. Braithwaite said that she would also like to understand what evidence existed to support the use of the Stop and Filming tactic, e.g. how it affected crime and conviction rates, and whether the use of the tactic would be reviewed in terms of how well it worked and [balanced against] the upset it may cause.
- 44 However, Cllr. Braithwaite said that she recognised that the police were, with the best will in world, trying to protect innocent people from those seeking to commit crime, and that in Bishop's Ward the SNT was working really well with the estates and tenants and residents associations.
- 45 John Howard said that the police deserved the community's thanks and congratulations for a 41% drop in gun crime. However, he said that what he had read concerning the detention of youths at the Oval was quite shocking and he wanted to know if any crimes had been reported. Mr Howard added that he had no confidence in assurances given in respect of DNA, photographs and fingerprints collected from people, which were kept despite there being

- no conviction, which was of extreme concern to all those involved in civil rights issues.
- 46 Mr Howard said that he hoped that the police had listened to the views of the meeting and that if the police wanted to alienate an entire generation they were going the right way about it.
- 47 As he understood it, Richard Moore said that the police had lawfully used a tactic to keep the youths away from the Carnival. However, although a strong adherent of crime prevention, Mr Moore said that what he had heard was 'spin' and that taking youths on buses to Sutton police station was a waste of public money, as he was sure that there *were nearer places available to take them, for instance the police station at South Norwood*.
- 48 With regard to the *Safer Lambeth Partnership*, Mr Moore said that there was no analysis in terms of the SLP's effectiveness, as there was with the police, and that there were severe failures in relation to Safer Neighbourhood partnership working in his ward.
- 49 Paul Andell said that he agreed with all those who sought to reduce harm in the community and build confidence, and that therefore he was concerned about the effect on community confidence, as demonstrated by the feelings and views expressed at the meeting, as a result of the use of the common law and the application of PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act) in the arrest and detention of young people. He added that there was a possibility of a backlash which needed to be taken seriously.
- 50 Mr Andell said that there needed to be a review of preventative tactics in relation to the Carnival and to seek solutions, not just in terms of equalities and risk impact assessments around the Carnival area but also London-wide in order to avoid any fall in community confidence and any reactions to police actions. Mr Andell therefore asked that the police and the organisers of the Carnival consult with the community to ensure collective good governance of the Carnival and individual liberty.
- 51 A member of the public, James Osho, said that he agreed with those who had spoken out about the police's attitude, particularly towards young black people, which had its roots in the 1950s and yet was still being raised in 2008. He added that he could guarantee that at next month's meeting the Group would be discussing the exact same issues.
- 52 Mr Osho said that senior police officers knew that some of their officers were misrepresenting the police service but remained silent and allowed them to continue with their behaviour. As a young person, Mr Osho said that he saw the police service as a viable occupation, working in the community against crime. However, he said that the reality in terms of tackling crimes such as guns and drugs, the police, with the intelligence it possessed, needed to address the issues at source, which he likened to stopping the flow of electricity by switching it off at the mains, by following the money trail and not the product i.e. guns and drugs.
- 53 With regard to overt filming, Mr Osho said that people stopped were placed in a difficult position of it being their word against the police's filmed recordings, which made any inappropriate police behaviour difficult to prove. Mr Osho said that his main point of concern was the attitude, behaviour and approach of police when they stopped people and he would like to see that issue moved forward.
- 54 In respect of the question of the Group agreeing to the police using 'Stop and Snap' some years previously, Jim Toohill said that the Group had no documentation of ever having approved use of the tactic. In summarising the present position, Mr Toohill said that he, Anna Tapsell, Paul Andell, Doye Akinlade, Ivelaw Bowman, Wesley Stephenson, Lloyd Leon and Sandra Moodie had met with Ch. Supt. Sharon Row and Supt. Alistair Sutherland, who argued that the photographs taken of young people could be shown to parents to persuade them that their children were involved in gangs.
- 55 However, while there were arguments about the benefits of overt photography and filming, Mr Toohill said that there was an issue about how it was done and where the protections

- lay. At the meeting, Mr Toohill said that three areas of concern were identified: (1) the physical act of police photographing people in the presence of members of the public; (2) the linking of a name to a photograph and storing it regardless of how it was gathered; (3) the photographing of minors who did not have the capacity to refuse to be detained as they were photographed, although detention was not an issue in respect of filming as people would not be required to stop.
- 56 In relation to linking the identity of a person captured through filming, by asking the person to give their name, Mr Toohill said that CPCG had police were asked to contact the parents or carers in cases involving young people, which the police said they would be pleased to do so as it gave them an opportunity to explain their actions.
- 57 With regard to adults, Mr Toohill said that it was suggested to the police that the linking of names to photographs should be treated similarly to a Stop and Account, in that a receipt should be given to the person. All in all, Mr Toohill said a balance was sought between the police using the tools they needed and addressing the concerns of the community and establishing safeguards, as had been with Stop and Search, which were measurable.
- 58 In respect of the legality of private individuals to the right to privacy under the Human Rights Act, in relation to being photographed in the street by police, Mr Toohill said that the only way for it to be established would be to bring a case to court, which would have to be brought by an individual, since the Group would not receive legal aid and would have to pay costs if the case was lost.
- 59 Ann Corbett, Head of Community Safety, said that the minutes, including actions and decisions, of the last SLP Board meeting were available on Lambeth Council's website, including a resolution in relation to partnership work with the Group in order to develop and enhance its monthly public meetings. Ms Corbett said that she would therefore be attending Group meetings on a regular basis to meet statutory requirements and those arising from the Policing Green Paper. Furthermore, she said that the SLP would be holding two public meetings per year.
- 60 In response to Mr Bruce's concerns about vice, Ms Corbett said that she would be happy to return to the issue at the next Group meeting. However, with regard to Section 222 of the Local Government Act, Ms Corbett said that Lambeth was looking into two pilot sites, Brixton Hill and Tulse Hill, and designing out crime initiatives such as gating and closure of Josephine Avenue and the use of cross border patrols involving St Leonard's Ward and Wandsworth.
- 61 Apart from enforcement, Ms Corbett said that the SLP was also looking at issues of prevention and intervention such as a court referral scheme and services for street based sex workers.
- 62 In response to Mr Moore's concerns about street drinking, Megan Jones, Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), said that in terms of enforcement and treatment for addiction the DAAT worked closely with the police, although it was difficult to see the immediate answers. However, she said that one of the successes had been the provision of an alternative space for street drinkers in Brockwell Park and that the provision of 'wet centres' and other alternative spaces in other parts of the borough were being looked into.
- 63 Ms Jones said that every month a SLP forum, including all the treatment and outreach services and the police, met to discuss street drinkers by name in terms of who knew them, whether treatment intervention was working or whether an enforcement or anti-social behaviour option was required.
- 64 With regard to prostitutes, Ms Jones said there that the DAAT also worked with three agencies conducting outreach work and held a case review panel where the women were discussed by name and how to deal with them in terms of enforcement and treatment services.

Any Other Business

- 65 There was no A.O.B..

Next Meeting

6.00 p.m. Tuesday, 7 October 2008

Karibu Centre, Gresham Road SW9