

Karibu Centre, Brixton SW9

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), Jane Warwick
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP: Jean Carpenter (Flipside), Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler (Clapham Town N'hood Watch), Brian Mantell (South London Synagogue), Lloyd Leon (Lambeth ICVs), Nick Mason (Lambeth Summer Projects), Sharon Moodie (Cressingham Gardens TRA), Toaha Quereshi (Lambeth CEN), John Wainwright (Clapham Sector Working Group) Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road Residents Assoc.),
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Hope Barrett, Rod Brown, Richard Dutton, Rosemarie Falaiye, Peter Harris, John Howard, Lena James, Lee Jasper, David Prichard-Jones, Richard Moore, Fernando Senior
STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: MPA Maurice Blades **LAMBETH COUNCIL** Cllr Kingsley Abrams, Cllr. Darren Sanders, George Marshman, Ann Corbett (Community Safety); **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE**, Ch. Supt. Mick Johnson, Supt. Alistair Sutherland, Supt. Paul Wilson, Sgt. Ronnie Whelan **BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE** Insp. Robert Moon, Sgt. Paul Donovan, Sgt. Ricky Lucas

VISITORS: Roger Baker, Tim Boxall, Sadie Campbell, Zenobia Cowan-Davies, Sharon Facey (LWA), Ros Griffiths, Cllr. Julian Heather, Oscar Isaac, Elaine Holness, Oscar Isaac, Umar Quereshi, Juneary Raymond, Clovis Reid MBE, Patrick Sullivan, Lauren Ward, Alan Woods

APOLOGIES: Kevin Barton, Cllr. Steve Bradley, Cllr. Lorna Campbell, John Cheetham, Gloria Gomez, Konrad Grosse, Kate Hoey, Pamela Jansen-Smith, Tessa Jowell, Rosemarie Mallett, Clare Moore, Paul Reynolds, Junior Shabazz, Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe, Hazel Saunders, Arulini Velmurugu

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

Introduction

- 1 Anna Tapsell welcomed Ch. Supt. Mick Johnson, Territorial Support Group (TSG) to the meeting.
- 2 Ms Tapsell said that Junior Shabazz, LBL Head of Youth Support Service, had offered to give a presentation on the developments in Youth Provision in Lambeth but had sent his apologies due to ongoing departmental reorganisation.

Minutes of the Meeting 2 September 2008

- 3 Minutes of the Meeting 2 September 2008 were accepted without amendment.

Matters Arising

- 4 Ms Tapsell said that the Group would hold a Special meeting to discuss Lambeth Police's Asset Management Plan and Management Reorganisation (Walrus II) in November.

Lambeth Summer Projects Trust

- 5 Nick Mason, Chair of Lambeth Summer Projects Trust (LSPT), gave a presentation on the LSPT programme of activities for Summer 2008. LSPT is a voluntary sector organisation and registered charity which provides a programme of activities for young people during the summer school holidays in conjunction with Lambeth Police.
- 6 LSPT ran five projects across the borough in July/August 2008 at Brixton (Loughborough Primary School), Clapham (Clapham Manor Primary School), Kennington (Allen Edwards Primary School), Norwood (Elm Court School) and Streatham (Woodmansterne Primary School). This represented an increase from three sites in 2006 and four sites in 2007.
- 7 Over 750 young people between 9-16 participated on the projects across the borough who engaged in a substantial number of activities: 160 off-site activity sessions including canoeing, sailing, ice skating and bowling in addition to a programme of museum and cinema visits; and some 300 on-site activity sessions, including arts and crafts, dance, music and workshops relating to personal safety and drug and knife awareness. There were also over 100 on-site sports activities such as football, basketball and fencing.
- 8 This year LSPT was able to include in the programme a series of non-contact boxing courses provided by trained coaches from the TSG. These covered keeping fit, preparing for sport and healthy eating as well as non-contact boxing skills which were very successful with all the participants.
- 9 LSPT have now completed their 21st year of partnership with Lambeth Police, run in co-operation with Lambeth Council's Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP). LSPT is considered to be excellent example of partnership work in one of London's largest inner city boroughs and widely regarded as a flagship for police/youth engagement in London.
- 10 The projects were delivered with significant input from Safer Schools officers, officers and Police Community Support Officers from Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) and other officers working alongside 50 youth worker placements from Rainer Youth Inclusion Project (funded by the Council) and numerous community volunteers and other workers.

- 11 The direct cost of delivering the activities programmes is in the order of £130,000 each year, funded through grants and donations from a range of major charities, blue chips and other businesses.
- 12 The cost to the Council of the youth worker placements in 2008 was close to £100,000 and Lambeth's support has increased over the last five years.
- 13 LSPT aims to break down barriers between the police, young people and the wider community; thus minimising the impact of negative peer group pressure, including gang affiliation, thereby potentially contributing to a reduction in the likelihood of young people carrying knives and getting involved in knife crime.
- 14 The programmes also promote citizenship and reduce the potential for young people to commit crime by introducing them to different ways in which they can constructively use their leisure time. This summer the projects were visited by, amongst others, Jim Knight MP, Minister of State at the Dept of Children, Families and Schools, Commander Rod Jarman, who leads the MPS Youth Strategy, the Borough Commander, Lambeth CPCG Chair and other board members.
- 15 LCPT also played host to an Ofsted Inspector as part of the preliminary visit for the Joint Area Review and aspects of the project were filmed by the BBC and Sky TV as part of documentaries.
- 16 Planning has already started for 2009 and there are proposals to operate six sites and to use 4 key youth clubs pan-borough for up to six weeks during the long summer holiday. This will be part of an integrated and innovative plan with local police and the Council to support aspects of the 'Young and Safe Action Plan' developed by Lambeth First.
- 17 Lee Jasper congratulated LSP on their work over the past 20 years, from which he said some of his own children had benefited. He asked what the comparison was between the ethnic breakdown amongst users, amongst staff and volunteers and amongst Trustees.
- 18 Mr Mason responded that whilst he did not have detailed breakdowns to hand, he acknowledged that SLP were keen to ensure that their governance, which currently did not have BME representation, did reflect the diversity of the borough and of users.

Lambeth Police Update

- 19 Supt. Alistair Sutherland gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lambeth police performance comparing the current financial year to date with the same period in the previous year (see attached).
- 20 Despite a broader re-classification in relation to knife crime offences, Mr Sutherland said that there had still been a reduction of 10.5% in this type of crime.
- 21 Although there had been an overall reduction in crime, Mr Sutherland highlighted increases in Domestic Violence (DV) and Race Hate (RH) crimes. With regard to DV, Mr Sutherland said that more effort was being concentrated on repeat victims and offenders, while he believed that there was an enhanced confidence in victims reporting crime. In respect of RH, Mr Sutherland said that a clear-up rate of 50% had met the police target.
- 22 Mr Sutherland reported on the recently ended trial of a gang of cash-in-transit robbers who had been found guilty of 18 robberies, many involving firearm, across the south of England between April 2006-September 2007. Mr Sutherland said that the gang, the majority of whom were from Lambeth, had stolen £500,000.
- 23 David Tomlinson asked Mr Sutherland if the Group could have crime figures on monthly/yearly basis in order that they could be compared. From his own calculations six months ago, he said that Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs) were about 100 per day in Lambeth, which gave him a sense of the size of the crime problem which he could put into context when, for example, given a percentage of crime reduction. In addition, Richard Moore asked if the police could provide comparative crime figures for other boroughs.
- 24 In this respect, Ms Tapsell said that the CPCG Board was in discussion with Lambeth Police Senior Management Team about the format of police reports for the future.
- 25 Mr Sutherland said that the police would be more than happy to provide figures in the simple format requested and comparative figures for those other boroughs with which the Group would like to compare.

- 26 With regard to Thurlow Park Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Mr Moore said that it was ranked third in the MPS for abstractions of officers from the Ward, to undertake duties such as plain-clothes work supporting detectives.
- 27 In response, Supt. Paul Wilson said that Thurlow Park Ward SNT sergeant had informed him that recently there had been no such abstractions, nor as many as suggested. However, he said that he would discuss the matter with Mr Moore outside of the meeting.
- 28 In response to Mr Moore, Mr Sutherland said that Lambeth was not losing 50 police officers and was seeking to attain the numbers it should have, which it hadn't reached for some years. In this respect, he said that Lambeth Police's budgeted target working strength used to be 985 officers but this had been substantially lower over the past two years by around 30 officers.
- 29 Maurice Blades, MPA Link Officer, said that the MPS had recently launched Crime Mapping on its website and anyone with internet access could look at crime statistics ward by ward, although not all crime groups were covered and the facility needed to be developed further.
- 30 In response to Sharon Facey, Lambeth Women's Aid, Mr Sutherland said that the increase of 73 DV incidents reported were those that had been designated as such and could include serious offences such as murder.
- 33 In order to give a better understanding of the TSG's role, Mr Johnson gave a PowerPoint Presentation (see attached) on TSG's history, remit, structure, roles, skills and crime statistics.
- 34 Ch. Insp. John Dale, of 5 TSG, based at Larkhall Lane, said that he was aware that the Lambeth community had concerns about TSG and he hoped the meeting would be the start of an effective relationship between TSG and the community.
- 35 Over the last three or four months, Ch. Insp. Dale said TSG had undertaken several duties including reassurance patrols with SNTs on Myatts Field Estate, speaking with local businesses in Brixton about their expectations and needs from police in the area, building relationships with young people, and working on ongoing projects with church associated youth groups.
- 36 Furthermore, TSG had worked on the Lambeth Summer Projects; running a six-a-side multi-faith cricket tournament and a boxing tournament, giving coaching lessons and donating equipment. During this time, eight TSG officers were involved every day over a two week period assisting with supervision and transport. In respect of boxing, TSG had established a permanent boxing club at the former Lillian Baylis school. Each TSG team gave three days every five weeks to community engagement work.
- 37 Ch. Insp. Dale gave a commitment that he and one of his inspectors would attend future Group meetings to address concerns as they were raised. In addition, Ch. Insp. Dale invited the Group to an Open Day at TSG base at Larkhall Lane on Saturday, 22 November, to see how TSG trained, the equipment they used, received briefings and to take part in discussions. Over time, Ch. Insp. Dale said that he hoped the Group could suggest how the TSG could become more involved with the community.

Territorial Support Group

- 31 As part of his presentation, Ch. Supt. Michael Johnson, Territorial Support Group (TSG), showed a brief film compiled of images taken from news programmes, which he said demonstrated how the TSG was portrayed by the media; as heavy-handed riot police.
- 32 As was evident from the footage, one of the roles of TSG was to contain violent disorder and, in such instances, Mr Johnson said that he was sure that most people would want the police to make the streets safer and maintain the peace. However, he said that there was no acknowledgment by the media of TSG's involvement in community projects or what the TSG did on a day to day basis, engaging with the public and supporting local policing activity.
- 38 Ms Tapsell said that TSG had agreed to hold a surgery at the Open Day where people could talk in confidence with a senior officer and the Group member about their grievances.
- 39 Toaha Quereshi gave an account of his son being Stop and Searched and arrested by TSG based on alleged intelligence that he fitted the description of a person dealing drugs on the street. Mr Quereshi said that his son had been physically and verbally abused by police who refused to provide him with a record of the Stop

and their identification numbers. Mr Quereshi said that his son's injuries were examined by the doctor at Brixton Police Station and at hospital. Mr Quereshi said that he wanted a solution to the matter.

40 Apart from the physical abuse, Mr Quereshi's son said that during his arrest racist comments were made by some of the officers who should not be allowed to be in TSG and should be punished for their actions. Furthermore, he said that criminal damage charges were brought against him, although the only time he could have made any damage was when his face was being bashed against a van door. In addition, officers had fabricated a story about his arrest. He said that their despicable and disgusting behaviour tarnished the police's reputation and could understand why young people were turning towards violence and extremism.

41 Ch. Supt. Johnson said that it was difficult to comment about an ongoing inquiry or give conclusive judgement on allegations while they were being investigated, although they were taken very seriously. Mr Johnson said that Ch. Insp. Dale could speak to Mr Quereshi on a one-to-one basis and try to progress matters through the Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS) investigation. Mr Johnson reiterated that a senior TSG officer would be present at all future Group meetings to listen to community concerns and answer them directly.

42 Ms Tapsell said that many people did not make complaints against the police out of fear of getting on the wrong side of them. She added that the Group would monitor the situation.

43 Juneary Raymond said that her 27 year-old nephew had been assaulted by TSG officers outside his home and that a complaint had been made with the matter in the hands of solicitors. Ms Raymond said that she wanted to know how senior officers could ensure that their officers on the ground did not assault members of the community time and time again.

44 Ros Griffiths said that she was disappointed in Mr Johnson's response as the Group expected professional behaviour and sensible policing in Lambeth. She said that she was also disappointed that there was no mention in the presentation of TSG's involvement in the Brixton Splash event, which had brought 30,000 people onto the streets of Brixton over the past three years. In respect of community relations with the TSG, Ms Griffiths said that she thought

they were poor since the anonymous TSG often came into the borough and undermined local policing, between which the community drew no distinction.

45 Ms Griffiths said that if community relations did not improve and TSG did not change its strategy quickly the atmosphere on the streets would turn very ugly. In terms of complaints, she said that again there was no distinction which could distort the figures between the TSG and local police. She added that she also feared gangs coming together and identifying a common enemy, i.e. the police, which was something she didn't want to see on our streets.

46 Gill Kenealy said that she was also dismayed by Mr Johnson's response to the allegation of the police assault, which did not appear to shock him, while other senior officers having heard such allegations in the past have reacted appropriately and sensitively.

47 Mr Johnson said that he had not deliberately omitted to mention the professional behaviour he expected from his officers but thought that it could go unsaid, which obviously it couldn't. However, he said that he could not stand up in a public meeting and apologise for something until it had been properly investigated, which, if proved would lead to appropriate action being taken.

48 Wesley Stephenson said that for members of a 'victim focussed' organization, senior MPS officers could act insensitively towards people who made a complaint at Group meetings by the manner in which they responded. Perhaps this was because comments made without advice given were recorded and could not be rescinded. Mr Stephenson said that there was a need to redress how the MPS dealt with victims with grievances.

49 Mr Johnson said that while the MPS was indeed victim focussed one of its primary roles was preventing crime and investigating crime when it has occurred.

50 Lloyd Leon commented that the TSG presentation showed nothing about the black community assisting and communicating with the police. Furthermore, he said that while the MPS had progressed a great deal since the 1980's, there seemed to be little difference between the Special Patrol Group (SPG) of that time and the present day TSG. This perception, he said, was very dangerous and with the TSG's job already very difficult officers needed

- to show respect to the people with whom they dealt.
- 51 Mr Johnson that while TSG had come about out of the demise of the SPG, it had been given specific activities which were entirely different from those of the SPG, which did not consult with boroughs about their activities. The TSG, on the other hand, was totally accountable to local borough commanders and tasked by them. With regard to the film shown, Mr Johnson said that the point he was trying to make was that media portrayed the TSG in one light, i.e. in relation to public order, and not to the numerous other activities that TSG undertook which go unseen.
- 52 In response to Mr Leon, Mr Johnson said that police had looked into using CCTV in vans but the type cameras needed could only face either forwards, backwards or sideways, which could lead to accusations that cameras were facing the wrong way and not capturing the activity they were meant to. At present, he added that *Headcams* were being tested within the MPS, which could prove to be reassuring to the public.
- 53 In respect of intelligence, Mr Johnson said that police did the utmost that they could to corroborate the information and carry out any actions in the safest possible way for both the public and the police. However, while the police carried out operations in everyone's best interest, he said that he accepted that there have been occasions when, in hindsight, intelligence had proved to be misleading, false or inaccurate.
- 54 Mr Leon said that there was a case in question currently being heard at an inquest into the death of a young man killed in the community as a result of wrong police intelligence.
- 55 Gill Kenealy said that there were some excellent local police officers in Lambeth but some TSG officers were being divisive at a time of a current crisis [with gangs] and terrified young people needed to have confidence in police and imbued with a sense that they would be treated with respect and listened to.
- 56 Mr Johnson said that every month he met with the Director of the MPS's Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS) on a one-to-one basis to go through complaints about TSG officers, the incidents they were involved in and major issues that may be outstanding regarding particular allegations. In this respect, he said that the circumstances of officers having more than two allegations made against them would be looked into and could lead to an officer being removed from operational duties.
- 57 With regard to investigations of complaints, Mr Johnson said that the manner depended upon the seriousness of allegations; they could either be resolved locally, undertaken by the DPS or by Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). He added that the types of complaints received were often concerning procedural issues rather than actions taken by officers themselves.
- 58 In relation to frontline officers, Mr Stephenson suggested that senior officers with their experience and hindsight should redress frontline policing and how officers dealt with members of the public.
- 59 In response, Mr Johnson said that the six inspectors he had brought to the meeting were frontline officers who just finished their shift and were present at the meeting while off-duty because they thought it was important to listen to and engage the people of Lambeth.
- 60 Regarding community activities, Mr Johnson said that TSG were involved in numerous undertakings, such as Brixton Splash, and in terms of community engagement had tried since the beginning to ensure that officers spent every hour that could be possibly spared with SNTs to support them and help TSG officers understand local issues across the MPS.
- 61 In response to Richard Dutton, Mr Johnson said that there was not community input into TSG training in respect of officer safety tactics, although there may be new ideas about the training of police probationers, for example, which he would look into.
- 62 In response to Mr Leon's comment about the difficulty of making complaints against police, Mr Sutherland said that in his view it has never been easier to complain and that there were various ways to do so, for example online or via a hotline to the DPS. Mr Sutherland said that he would be happy to arrange a presentation by the DPS to explain how the complaints process operated in its totality.
- 63 With regard to TSG operating in the borough, Mr Sutherland said that Lambeth police had to bid for them to tackle particular crime problems with TSG supervisors briefed, given intelligence packages and deployed. After an operation had

- finished, he said that a debriefing would be held.
- 64 On the matter of abstraction of police officers, Shane Collins referred to the recent Climate Camp at Kings North, Kent, which had involved officers from 26 police forces whose Stop and Search, attempted early morning raids and use of helicopters alienated hundreds of people, whom the police should wish to have on their side, by non-consensual over-policing.
- 65 In response, Mr Johnson said that there was an issue about balancing the needs of the different communities and whilst there will always be the rights for people to demonstrate there was also the rights of those who lived and worked in an area. However, he said that he appreciated the point Mr Collins had made and TSG always took into account disproportionality in its planning.
- 66 In relation to Taser trial, Mr Johnson said that the end of the trial period had been extended from 1 September while the data was being compiled by the Home Office and a TSG report sent in November to the MPA, whose steering Group had been monitoring TSG's data on a monthly basis. Ultimately, he said that the decision rested with the Home Secretary based on recommendations.
- 67 In terms of Stop and Search information including an ethnic breakdown, Mr Johnson said that TSG did have such information but not at hand. However, he said that such detail was looked at by the Group's Stop and Search Monitoring Group.
- 68 In response to Mr Stephenson, Mr Johnson said that the police still used a Stop and Search slip, although it was now a shorter version. With regard to the use of s60 [Crime and Disorder Act], the involvement of TSG was an option for police. In relation to identification of TSG, he said that TSG officers wore numerals with the prefix U on their shoulders, and that all officers were checked before leaving their base.
- 69 In response to Mr Stephenson, Mr Johnson said that the tasking process for TSG was a two week process. However, if there was intelligence of something imminently going to happen, he said that resources would be allocated based on the information received. However, he said that all TSG operations had to be sanctioned by Lambeth Borough Command
- 70 Mr Sutherland added that there was a standing invitation for Group members to view the tasking process at any Lambeth police station and how police deployed its resources around the borough.
- 71 David Prichard-Jones said that he had asked for a further meeting about the raid at the Rastafarian Temple in St Agnes Place, in which TSG were to some extent involved, and he would like a representative from TSG to be present.
- 72 Ms Tapsell thanked TSG officers for attending the meeting which was a first in terms of the TSG's ongoing engagement with the Group.
- 73 Ms Tapsell asked anyone who had issues regarding their dealings with the police to contact the Group's administrator at the CPCG office. She added that the Group would monitor complaints and responses.

Any Other Business

- 74 John Wainwright raised two issues for future agenda items; The X-it Project and Racism in the Police, following BBC's Panorama programme exposé on the matter
- 75 Ms Griffiths proposed that a representative of the Black Police Association should be invited to Group meetings.
- 76 Mr Stephenson congratulated the Family Liaison team involved with the family of Ryan Wesley Bravo, a teenage Lambeth resident murdered on Walworth Road, for their excellent work.
- 77 Ms Tapsell announced that Croydon CPCG was holding a meeting on Guns, Knives and Gangs at Croydon Town Hall at 6.30-8.00 p.m. on Friday, 31 October.

Next Meeting

6.00 p.m. Tuesday, 4 November 2008

Stockwell Community Resource Centre

1 Studley Road, Stockwell SW4 6RA

(behind Stockwell Underground Station)