

**West Indian ExServicemen/ Servicewomen
Association, Clapham Manor Street SW4**

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Paul Andell (Chair of Meeting), Ivelaw Bowman, Jim Toohill, Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Ros Munday (Clapham Community Partnership), Wesley Stephenson (Your Story), Jane Warwick

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP: Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler (Clapham Town N'hood Watch); Neil Flanigan, Jim Fairweather, Keith Shaw (WIESA); Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club); Anna Long (Churches Together in Clapham); Nick Mason (Lambeth Summer Projects); Hazel Saunders (Victim Support Lambeth); David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.); George Tuson (Streatham Southside N'hood Watch); Arulini Velmurugu (Lambeth Towers/Road TRA), Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road Residents Assoc.)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Rod Brown, Richard Dutton, Peter Harris, Lena James, David Prichard-Jones, Clare Moore, Juneary Raymond, Richard Moore, Cheryl Sealey.

STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: MPA Maurice Blades
LAMBETH COUNCIL Cllr Kingsley Abrams, Cllr. Betty Evans-Jacas, Cllr. Rachel Heywood, Cllr. Darren Sanders, Ann Corbett (Community Safety) **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE**, Det. Supt. John Corrigan, Supt. Paul Wilson, Ch. Insp. Suzanne Wallace, Sgt. Ronnie Whelan, Insp. (TSG), Sgt. Tony Smellie (TSG), PC Errol Patterson
BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE Sgt. Ricky Lucas

VISITORS: June-Pilgrim Ndure, Nora-Anne Sheehy, Chuka Umlinna, Leon Watson

APOLOGIES: Derrick Anderson, Jean Carpenter, John Cheetham, Shane Collins, Maude Estwick, Rowena Estwick, David Hart, John Howard, Gill Kenealy, Brian Mantell, George Marshman, Sandra Moodie; Paul Reynolds, Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe, Supt. Dave Musker, Supt. Alistair Sutherland, Anna Tapsell.

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

Introduction

1 Paul Andell reported that Anna Tapsell's health and wellbeing was improving following an accident at her home and she had managed to attend a Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) meeting earlier in the day. On behalf of the Group, Lloyd Leon extended the Group's best wishes to Anna for a full recovery.

Minutes of the Meeting 4 November 2008

- 2 Minutes of the Meeting 4 November 2008 were accepted with the following amendments:
- 3 Add Lena James to apologies.

- 4 P.2, Para. 15 to read: Mr Toohill said that a dispersal zone order in Brixton, which had started off very well, took a dent to its reputation after the arrests of two people in the Town Centre for giving out food. Mr Toohill asked for an update on what happened to them, e.g. had they been charged and convicted.
- 5 Ch. Insp. Suzanne Wallace said that the arrest of two people in the Brixton dispersal zone was for displaying literature containing abusive language. However, she said that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had decided that it was not in the public interest to prosecute and no further action was taken [P.2, Para. 15 04/11/12].

Matters Arising

- 6 ***In response to David Prichard-Jones, Mr Toohill said that the matter of the Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) publishing papers relating to its meeting was progressing, with everyone agreeing that there was no reason for them not to be in the public domain. In this respect, he said it was hoped that the SLP would agree a constitution at its meeting in January, which should move the matter forward and he would keep the Group updated*** [P.1, Para 5 04/11/08].
- 7 ***In response to Arulini Velmurugu, Supt. Paul Wilson said that there was no intention of the Group being replaced by an Independent Advisory Group (IAG), as both performed distinctly different functions. He said that an IAG Steering Group was meeting on 3 December in keeping with a project timeline to introduce an IAG by 1 April 2009. He added that there was a commitment to keep the Group informed of developments*** [P.1, Para 6 04/11/12].
- 8 ***David Tomlinson asked for an update in respect of the Community Safe public information system*** [P.2, Para 10 04/11/08].
- 9 Mr Tomlinson said that he would like to record the gratitude of the Stockwell and Vassal Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panels

(SNPs) for providing Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) terminals for SN Team sergeants, although nothing had actually been delivered as yet. He therefore asked if Sgt. Ronnie Whelan could monitor the progress [P2, Para 12 04/11/08].

- 10 In response to Richard Moore, Supt. Wilson said that there had been a very productive meeting on 1 December regarding the performance management of Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs). Based on a Wandsworth model, he said that there was a Chief Inspector acting as a SNT line-manager in both the north and south of the borough [P.3, Para.22 04/11/08].
- 11 **Ann Corbett said that a meeting had been set up with SLaM and MPS colleagues to discuss Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) report Police Custody as a "Place of Safety": Examining the Use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 and its 22 recommendations** [P.3 Para 28 04/11/08].
- 12 Mr Andell said that IPCC would be represented at the Group meeting in January and would give an update on a number of issues, including the death in police custody of Sean Rigg [P.4 Para. 38 04/11/08].
- 13 Kelly ben Maimon said that she was in contact with the Rigg family and that they would soon be making a public statement and hopefully attend the January meeting.
- 14 On 27 November, Jane Warwick said she had met with two members of UK Border Agency at Streatham police station to show them the appalling conditions there. She said that the officials wanted to know about clothing provision for immigration detainees, which was non-existent, and that they would look at statistics concerning the detention of immigrants at police stations, which cost £550 per night [P. 5, Para. 49 04/11/08].
- 15 **Maurice Blades, MPA Link Officer, said that he was not aware of any consultation with the MPA about new targets set for the removal of immigration detainees but he would look**

into the matter and provide a written answer [P.6, Para 61 04/11/08].

Lambeth Police Update

- 16 Det. Supt. John Corrigan 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).
- 17 In respect of Domestic Violence (DV) incidents, Mr Corrigan said that he would like to see an increase in the reporting of DV incidents. At the same time, he said that Lambeth had one of the highest sanction detection rates for DV in London with repeat victimisation showing a reduction.
- 18 On 25 November, White Ribbon Day [International Day Against Violence Against Women], police had invoked Operation Athena aimed at arresting outstanding suspects of DV.
- 19 Since the last meeting, Mr Corrigan said that the Drugs and Firearms Team had executed 16 warrants which had led to the detection of four drug offences. Four arrests had also been made for gun enabled crime resulting in one detection.
- 20 Mr Corrigan said that a review of Lambeth's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) between the police and Adult and Community Services had been held with a view to establishing areas of improvement. In this respect the CPS would be providing a single point of contact to enhance the charging of suspected perpetrators of DV. Mr Corrigan added that as part of a Local Area Agreement the SLP would undertake additional activity to improve areas of business in relation to DV victims, such as providing housing.
- 21 In respect of the TSG Open Day on 22 November, Mr Andell said that it represented a furtherance in the development of dialogue between TSG and CPCG.
- 22 With regard to a local Diamond initiative, aimed at reducing re-offending by individuals released from short prison sentences into Coldharbour Ward, Supt.

- Wilson suggested that the Group would perhaps want to hear more about the initiative by way of a presentation. Mr Corrigan added that 700 people from Lambeth go to prison every month while 1,000 were released.
- 23 In response to Mr Leon, Ch. Insp. Wallace said that as far as could be presently ascertained, a full risk assessment had been completed in relation to the execution of a search warrant by Sutton police at an address in Streatham with local police informed beforehand.
- 24 Ch. Insp. Wallace added that the IPCC had been contacted and were satisfied with the action taken and that police had not been involved in any wrongdoing with regard to a man sustaining serious head injuries after exiting the property through a window.
- 25 Mr Leon commented on how the conduct of TSG officers operating in other of parts of London reflected on TSG officers in Lambeth and undermined the good work that they were doing. As an example, he referred to a recent incident in which a man involved in a struggle with TSG officers was acquitted by a magistrate.
- 26 In response, TSG Inspector said he was painfully aware of the perception of the TSG, internally and externally, and he took on board what Mr Leon had said. However, he added that the while they did not always get things right, the TSG were, in the main, a Command of highly motivated officers with strong supervisors and that they tried their best to police Lambeth and other difficult areas, which was not always easy.
- 27 **Following comments by Cllr. Betty Evans-Jacas about the clarity of the statistics, Mr Toohill said that the Group used to receive the best and most comprehensive police performance report of any CPCG in London; showing long term trends with figures for the financial year to date against the previous year. Mr Toohill said that the Group expected to start receiving the police report on a regular basis from the next Group meeting in January.**
- 28 Richard Dutton questioned why, in view of Lambeth Council's stipulation about not setting off fireworks in public places under any circumstances, firework displays had been allowed. In response, Mr Corrigan said that it was a celebration which had continued to take place across the whole country for hundreds of years and.
- 29 Mr Tomlinson said that he been asked by Stockwell SNP to bring to the Group's attention the serious anti-social and intimidating behaviour of pupils from Stockwell Park High School, particularly when leaving school in the afternoon.
- 30 Having considered reports from local residents and tenants associations, whose expressed frustration and protests had been ignored by the Head Teacher, who had also failed to respond to a joint letter from the police and Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, Mr Tomlinson said that the SNP had therefore agreed with police that:
- 31 (1) the anti-social behaviour of the Stockwell Park High School pupils should be a SNT policing priority
- 32 (2) the Borough Commander should be asked to personally intervene with the Head Teacher by formally requesting that she meet with Stockwell SNT's Sgt. Ross, the north Lambeth Community Safety Officer and the Chair of Stockwell SNP.
- 33 **Mr Corrigan said that police would engage with Stockwell Park High and other parties identified to try to address the matter as soon as possible and return with the appropriate response.**
- 34 In response to Kelly ben Maimon, Supt. Wilson said that partnership worked on various levels, such as shown by the issue raised by Mr Tomlinson, where local people worked with local police to solve local problems. With regard to the SLP, Supt. Wilson said that it was a statutory provision set up in 1998 which obliged the police, the local authority and other key agencies to work together to reduce crime and disorder.
- 35 Ann Corbett said that under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) the other key responsible authorities on SLP Board were

- the Primary Care Trust, the MPA and Fire and Rescue, and co-chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council and the Borough Commander. Furthermore, Ms Corbett said other SLP members included Probation Service, HM Prison Brixton and the Group, represented by the Group's chairperson, Anna Tapsell.
- 36 Ms Corbett reiterated earlier information about the revising a SLP constitution and said that the SLP would be holding two 'Face the Public' meetings and wanted to bring the Young and Safe Action Group to the Group's February meeting
- 37 In response to Ros Munday, Supt. Wilson said that SNP representation on the SLP Board was a recommendation in the SLP constitution to be discussed in January.
- 38 In terms of the SLP's successes, Mr Corrigan said partnership work was the way forward and that Lambeth had won awards for work around drugs, CCTV and DV, and that work such as Operation Phoenix, Exit, Flipside and Gaia Centre had been endorsed by the National Audit Office in 2007.
- 39 In response to Mr Moore's concerns about the efficacy of the Audit Commission, Supt. Wilson said that he was a representative on the Safeguarding Board, a statutory requirement for each borough to take on responsibilities for safeguarding children with a remit covering education, healthy lifestyle and the Every Child Matters agenda.
- 40 ***With regard to partnership working, Supt. Wilson said it would be useful to have a presentation on the responsibilities of partnership groups and the onus of each particular group.***
- 41 ***In response to Ms Velmurugu, Sgt Ricky Lucas (BTP) said that he understood that crime had fallen as a result of Waterloo no longer being a Euro Star terminal but he would verify the matter and bring figures to the next meeting.***
- 42 A member of the public commented on the number of firearms coming into the country alongside many foreign nationals with criminal records allowed to enter the country for work, and should be looked into in terms the country's youth and the supply of guns.
- 43 Mr Corrigan said that the issue of firearms coming into the country continued to be studied with many guns found to have come from the Balkans and further east. One of the problems, he said was that guns were broken down and smuggled into the country in small, unrecognisable parts and re-assembled.
- 44 In response to Mr Leon, Mr Blades said that applying for the job of Commissioner of the MPS was by submitting a simple application form in response to an advertisement, although there was perhaps a small limited group of people who could possibly apply.
- 45 In response to Mr Toohill, Mr Blades said that he was correct to point out that the MPA had agreed to the MPS trialing Taser but as far as he was aware the MPA had not agreed to Tasers being rolled out to all response teams in London, as may have been suggested by the Home Office. Meanwhile, he said that the MPA awaited the outcome of its own scrutiny into the use of Taser.

Asset Management Plan/Walrus II

- 46 Ch. Insp. Wallace said that she had been commissioned by the Borough Commander, Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe, to look at possible changes in the way Lambeth police worked in order for it to be fit for purpose to meet new priorities and targets. Known as Walrus II, the project was a follow-up to Walrus I (2001) and incorporated the learning from that.
- 47 On 1 August, Ch. Insp. Wallace said options were presented to the Lambeth police Command Team. The first option was to make the borough a functional model i.e. a superintendent leading on functional responsibilities and moving away from the current geographically zoned responsibilities of three superintendents heading three sub-commands.

- 48 However, she said that police opted to move to a more streamlined structure of north and south sub-commands each with its own management team with support from specialists pan-borough to deal with specialist investigations, DV, hate crime and sexual offences. Police response teams and SNTs remained as they were.
- 49 The result of the change had led to improved accommodation for police and staff working at Streatham police station, and included office space and conference rooms. As well as continuing to provide effective policing, Ch. Insp. Wallace said the changes reflected the police valuing its staff.
- 50 Ch. Insp. Wallace said that she was chairing an improvement group which would seek to iron out any problems and develop and improve any protocols to help to adapt to the new reality. She added that one of the real benefits of the changes was that Lambeth now had a CID group which would have more resilience and be able to develop as more officers were becoming attracted to and interested in working within the CID.
- 51 Mr Toohill asked why, when there had been an increase in the number of MPS police officers over the past few years from 29,000 to 34,000, the Lambeth establishment had remained constant with around 950 officers based in the borough. He said that it appeared that Lambeth had been punished for reducing crime.
- 52 Wesley Stephenson added that the true figure of officers working in the borough at any one time had to take into account shifts, abstraction of officers to duties outside the borough, sickness, annual leave and other reasons.
- 53 Mr Tomlinson said that there seemed to be a strategic problem in terms of the allocation of police officers to Lambeth as was demonstrated by the use of TSG 5, a London-wide resource of about 140 Officers, which has been called upon to operate in the borough every day of the year, and was effectively an extension of Lambeth police. This, he said, was unfair to both TSG and Lambeth police and not always the best way to police Lambeth.
- 54 Ch. Insp. Wallace refuted that the TSG was used to backfill the shortage of staff on the borough, as the TSG was trained for different duties using particular skills and experiences. Along with other specialists, she said that the TSG operated in the borough to support Lambeth's policing priorities i.e. serious violence, youth violence, and reducing Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs) and improve sanctioned detections.
- 55 John Wainwright said that he hadn't heard a particularly compelling case for the re-organisation of Lambeth police, and if the three sub-commands could be reduced to two it may just as well be reduced to one command centre for the borough. Mr Wainwright said that he wanted to know what was behind the restructuring e.g. was it to save money.
- 56 Supt. Wilson said that organisations changed and re-configured to meet external pressures and demands. Yet, while Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary had said that Lambeth was the most complex and challenging policing environment in Europe, Lambeth had managed to reduce TNO on a yearly basis for the past six years.
- 57 However, as a management team, he said that Lambeth police had recognised that the future would become more and more challenging, and in considering its unique structure of three distinct sub-commands and listening to peers and external auditors, it was found that there was too much duplication in Lambeth, which hindered cohesiveness and could not be justified when trying to work with increasing demands to improve performance.
- 58 With regard to operating with one functional Command Team, Supt. Wilson said that the idea had been considered but thought by some to be a step too far and that the measure currently in place took precedence, which has reduced bureaucracy and presented an enormous cultural challenge.
- 59 Mr Moore said that either the MPA or MPS had recommended that that one Inspector per eight SNTs. However, while in north Lambeth there was one Inspector for six or seven SNTs, in the south there was one

- Inspector for thirteen or fourteen, an unbelievable workload which, Mr Moore said, needed to be reviewed. He added that SNTs would be run more efficiently if they were brought under a single command structure.
- 60 In response, Ch. Insp. Wallace said that a Ch. Inspector would be supporting the south Lambeth Inspector and SNTs while the situation was being reviewed.
- 61 Referring to the MPS Asset Management Plan (AMP), Mr Blades said that it had arisen from a document *Building Towards the Safest City* (2004), which looked into MPS's estate including police stations, training facilities, car pounds, stables and boathouses, and raised questions about its fitness for purpose, for police and public alike, and to meet elements of new legislation.
- 62 In 2006, Mr Blades said that an Estate Strategic Plan was produced looking at maximising the operational effectiveness of police properties and making the best use of what was available.
- 63 In November 2007, the MPA produced an Asset Management Plan (AMP) for each London Borough laying out some of the issues and concerns particular to the borough. However, following the Mayoral changes in May, 2008, Mr Blades said that Deputy Mayor for Policing, Kit Malthouse, had asked for a review to look at the potential closure of some of the older police stations.
- 64 As a result, a three member body of the MPA and officers of the MPS has been established to conduct a review. More information would be forthcoming over the next six months, such as that involving police counter services.
- 65 In terms of other issues such as centralised patrol bases and custody suites, Mr Blades said that the possible locating of them across London was still being looked at.
- 66 Supt. Wilson said that one of the concerns that had come out of Lambeth police's presentation on its AMP was around the issue of consultation, which now seemed to have been taken on board as shown by the setting up of a review.
- 67 In his view, Mr Leon said that Streatham police station was unfit for purpose e.g. it lacked disabled access, had cramped interview rooms and problems with maintaining a comfortable temperature for officers, the public and detainees.
- 68 Having worked at Streatham for two years, Ch. Insp. Wallace said that she could not disagree with Mr Leon and the AMP had been designed to address such properties which were difficult and expensive to maintain, and a distraction to providing frontline policing.
- 69 However, while moving some staff out of Streatham had improved the situation, she said that it was important to value staff in order that they could value the community with whom they interacted. Still, she said that there were inadequacies which would need to be addressed following the MPA's review.
- 70 Mr Dutton proposed that the police could use a nearby shop as a police front counter so that wheelchair users and people with prams could gain access to the police. In response, Ch. Insp. Wallace said that front counter accessibility had been incorporated into the AMP and would be based in town centre areas.
- 71 Ms Velmurugu commented that most police property was inaccessible to disabled people such as her local SNT office and Kennington police station, where the ramp could not be used by persons with manual wheelchairs.
- 72 Mr Toohill said the draft AMP produced in 2007 was a generic document for every London borough and not something that the Group could have properly discussed or be consulted about. Furthermore, he said that the document containing Lambeth's views on the AMP was not recognisable as being what people had actually said about it, and the point had been made to the MPA.
- 73 Mr Toohill said that the terms of reference for the scrutiny panel led by Graham Speed to review the AMP did not state whether it

- would talk to CPCGs or SNPs, and that the Group would be happy to facilitate a meeting for the MPA to give a presentation and consult with the community.
- 74 Cllr. Darren Sanders said that the community needed to have AMP structure that suited the needs of the borough and its ever changing needs for policing, which had become increasingly more local and he was concerned that the MPA was taking a different approach by looking purely at assets, money and finite resources, and ignoring obvious things such as refurbishing local police stations.
- 75 Rod Brown said that it appeared obvious that the final structure of policing in Lambeth would be dependent of the AMP. With regard to Streatham police station, which also served Norwood, Mr Brown said that if there was a need to build a new police station there was no reason why it couldn't be in Norwood rather than Streatham.
- 76 Mr Blades said that the AMP had identified some of the shortcomings of the property in the borough and it was his understanding that it was not desirable to close police station front counters. He added that he shared concerns about the need for a wider debate and that he would feedback the Group's comments to Caroline Pidgeon, MPA Link Member, and the MPA Ch. Executive, about how there needs to be a greater community input in the review process.
- 77 Mr Toohill congratulated Sharon Rowe on gaining her promotion which would almost certainly mean that she would be leaving Lambeth. Mr Toohill said that the Group was minded to write the MPA, as the SLP had agreed to do, to state its case that the MPA could do much better than providing a Borough Commander who could only stay in the borough for one year.
- 78 In response, Mr Blades said that the Group's concern about the shortened tenure of the Borough Commander was not unique to Lambeth and was also of concern to Deputy Mayor Malthouse, who was raising the matter with Territorial Policing HQ. The concern was not only for the community but also for continuity in relation to police staff.
- 79 However, being a hierarchical structure, Mr Blades said that police officers had the opportunity to seek promotion [which could lead to being transferred]. Therefore, ways were being sought to encourage people to become Borough Commanders whilst giving them the opportunity to progress through the career structure.
- 80 Mr Corrigan said that when Sharon Rowe arrived in Lambeth last year she had indicated that she was going for promotion and said that if she was successful she would give a commitment to remain on the borough for at least a year. He added that she had not left the borough and would be back in Lambeth in March 2009 when the matter would be reviewed.
- 81 Canon Bowman said that since Commander Brian Paddick was the Borough Commander the rank of the office had been lowered. He said that Lambeth needed a person of Commander rank so that they could spend more time amongst the people of the borough.
- 82 Mr Stephenson said that while he understood the issue around promotion he did not think two years was long enough in the job as Borough Commander for settled continuity. Cllr. Evans-Jacas added that consistency within the management structure of the police would do nothing but help the borough.
- 83 Mr Andell thanked the West Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association for hosting the Group meeting and commented that discussion around the AMP/Walrus II were the beginnings of a democratic engagement process that could be built upon.
- 84 Mr Andell reminded the Group that Any Other Business had to be notified in advance.

Next Meeting**6.00 p.m. Tuesday, 6 January 2009****Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton SW2**