

Room 8, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton SW2

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell (Chair and Chair of Meeting), Paul Andell, Shane Collins, Gill Kenealy, Jim Toohill (Ind. Membs), Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Sandra Moodie (Cressingham Gardens TRA), Ros Munday (Clapham Community Partnership), Wesley Stephenson (Your Story), Jane Warwick (Lambeth ICVs)

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP: Jean Carpenter (Flipside); David Hart (Clapham Community Partnership); Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club); Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market Traders Assoc.); Anna Long (Churches Together in Clapham); Brian Mantell (South London Synagogue), Most Rev. Bancroft McCarthy (HMP Brixton IMB); Nick Mason (Lambeth Summer Projects); Sandra Moodie (Cressingham Gardens TRA); Hazel Saunders (Victim Support Lambeth), Neil Flanagan, Jim Fairweather (WIESA); Catriona Robertson (Clapham and Stockwell FF); David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.); George Tuson (Streatam Common Southside NW); Peggy Tyler (Clapham Town N'hood Watch); Arulini Velmurugu (Lambeth Towers/Road TRA), John Wainwright (Clapham SWG); Hazel Watson (Milkwood Road Residents Assoc.)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Hope Barrett, Rod Brown, Richard Dutton, Rosemarie Falaiye, Peter Harris, John Howard, Lena James, Lee Jasper, Clare Moore, Richard Moore, David Prichard-Jones, Juneary Raymond, Cheryl Sealey, Fernando Senior

STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: *MPA* Maurice Blades **LAMBETH COUNCIL** Cllr. Kingsley Abrams, Cllr. Rachel Heywood, Cllr. Graham Pycock, Ann Corbett, Chris D'Souza, **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE**, Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe, Det. Supt. John Corrigan, Supt. Dave Musker, Ch. Insp. Jon Kirkpatrick, Roach (TSG), Sgt. Ronnie Whelan, PC Errol Patterson **BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE** Sgt. Stacey Harfield, Sgt. Ricky Lucas

VISITORS: Vincent Atkins, Pauline Bower, Tim Boxall, Wayne Brown, Aneksi Chateau, John Cheetham, James Fox, Ros Griffiths, David Pinder, Marcia Rigg-Samuel, Patrick Sullivan, Chuka Umunna

APOLOGIES: Ivelaw Bowman, Wally Channon, Maude Estwick, Rowena Estwick, Patrick Gillespie, George Marshman, Patricia Moberly, June Pilgrim, Cathy Valentine,

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

Introduction

- 1 Anna Tapsell (the Chair) reported that Supt. Alistair Sutherland and Supt. Paul Wilson were both on leave due to illness and she wished them a speedy recovery.
- 2 Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe (Borough Commander) said that Acting Supt. Paul Hudson would take up Supt. Wilson's portfolio, while Temporary Supt. Clive Wakeley would be in charge of Kennington

sub-command. Commander also reported that Supt. Sutherland had been successful in his Chief Superintendent exam. The Chair expressed the Group's congratulations.

Additional Item - Lambeth Youth Services

- 3 The Chair welcomed Lambeth Borough Council Chief Executive, Mr Derek Anderson, to the meeting to address issues of concern in respect of Lambeth Youth Services and recent changes in personnel.
- 4 Mr Anderson pointed out that the Youth Service was solely within the domain of the Lambeth Borough Council, rather than the Safer Lambeth Partnership. He added that disciplinary, or grievance, matters were not appropriate to a public meeting and that we should respect the reputations of any individuals concerned.
- 5 A number of questions were put, and points made, from the meeting:
 - 5.1 It was understood that two senior members of the service had resigned and there had been rumours of inappropriate and possibly illegal activities. Had there been an internal investigation (with what outcome) and had any reports been made to the police?
 - 5.2 Whilst the Youth Service was operationally entirely within the domain of the Council, its importance in achieving the priorities of the Safer Lambeth Partnership made public confidence, especially amongst young people, critical to achieving those priorities.
 - 5.3 There needed to be confidence that if there were improprieties, or even criminality, then these had been properly investigated, reported on and appropriate action taken.
 - 5.4 Queries were raised concerning the confidence of council officials in raising matters of concern with their superiors.
 - 5.5 Raising concerns over recent developments within the service should not be taken as making judgements around particular individuals.

- 6 Mr Anderson responded that:
- 6.1 He had authorised an enquiry into these matters, including an Audit in respect of finance, and that an aspect had been referred to the police
- 6.2 He was comfortable for the Group to address issues relating to the Youth Service **and would be happy that the matters of concern should be followed up at another time.**
- 7 The Borough Commander confirmed that there was no current police investigation related to any of these matters.

Minutes of the Meeting 6 January 2009

- 8 Minutes of the Meeting 6 January were agreed with the following amendments.
- 9 P.1, Para 6 to read 'Mr Prichard-Jones said that if there was no progress on the SLP publishing its documents the Group should withdraw its representation on the SLP Board. Mr Prichard-Jones cited the raid on the Rastafarian Temple in St Agnes Place as being another area of concern as despite frequent allegations by Councillors and Council Officers of Class A drugs and firearms being sold on the premises, no evidence of this has ever been produced.
- 10 P.5, Para 53. Line 1 to read 'Sean Rigg was arrested in an estate...'

Matters Arising

- 11 In response to Neil Flanagan, the Chair said that in view of the fact that there had been advertisements for membership of an Independent Advisory Group (IAG), at the Group's Business Meeting for members on 24 February, Ch. Supt. Glen Allison [Territorial Policing] had explained the role and function of an IAG. The Chair added that, as a whole, the Group's membership had never accepted the need for an IAG since the Group had just as much and more to offer [P.1, Para. 4, 06/01/09].
- 12 The Borough Commander said that in light of MPS policy, she understood that Lambeth

would have an IAG and she would confirm the matter with Ch. Supt. Allison. However, Ch. Supt. Rowe said that she acknowledged and appreciated the role and work of the Group over the years and that it would continue to play a crucial part in terms of its involvement with the policing of the borough, and a need to work together for the best interests of Lambeth.

- 13 David Tomlinson reported that the Stockwell Safer Neighbourhood Team and met with the Head Teacher of Stockwell High School and that on 25 February the Territorial Support Group (TSG) had given a presentation to Year 11 at the school on issues such as Stop and Search. Mr Tomlinson said that it was perhaps something that could be considered at other schools [P.1, Para. 7 06/01/09]
- 14 **Mr Tomlinson reiterated a suggestion at a previous Group meeting of having an agenda item specifically to discuss the issue of school based gangs with Head Teachers of Lambeth secondary schools.**
- 15 In response to Ros Griffiths, Jim Toohill said that the Group had made representations to Commander Maxine de Bruner and had written to Kit Malthouse, Deputy Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority, in respect of the tenure of the Borough Commander's post in Lambeth. The Group had also raised the issue of the MPA's evaluation of Taser. **A response was awaited** [P.2, Para.13 & 14 06/02/09].
- 16 Pauline Bower said that the correspondence and update she had received from Supt. Alistair Sutherland in relation to the seizure of Selwyn Scott's dog had been unsatisfactory **and that she hoped she would receive more from him** [P.2, Para.17, 06/01/01]
- 17 With regard to how police dealt with allegations of harassment, Ms Bower said that it was not only herself but many others who wanted to know police procedures for investigating allegations, as some people had been murdered as a result of police seemingly not taking allegations seriously [P.2, Para.18, 06/01/01].
- 18 **Sgt. Ronnie Whelan said that he had drafted a response regarding police**

procedures for dealing with allegations of harassment, which he would forward to the Group.

- 19 In response to Lloyd Leon, the Chair said that she had met with the Jamaican national at the Group's office to discuss his issues [P.2, Para.22 06/02/09].
- 20 In response to Juneary Raymond, Jim Toohill said that some incidents brought up at Group meetings were taken as a general example alongside similar types of incidents, which gave a cumulative picture of issues. With regard specific incidents, he said that the Group did assist individuals when asked, where it could.
- 21 In respect of Ms Raymond's issues concerning the police and her nephew, Mr Toohill said that Ms Raymond had indicated at an earlier meeting that solicitors were involved and that there had been no request for Group assistance. However, he added that it should be made clear that with regard to assisting with individual cases, the Group was not funded to do so and could only help through the voluntary effort it provided. [P.3, Para.23 06/01/09].
- 22 However, Mr Toohill said that some issues collectively raised were brought to the police's attention, e.g. in terms of seeking better use of Stop and Search/Account and proposing the use of CCTV cameras in police vans for the benefit of both the police and the public. When progress was made as a result of such discussions, he acknowledged that this should be reported back more regularly.
- 23 Mr Toohill said that unequivocally the public should always be able to make a complaint against the police at a police station and asked Supt. Dave Musker to clarify [P.3, Para.30, 06/01/09].
- 24 Supt. Dave Musker said that following an investigation into allegations that people were unable to make a complaint after an incident in Brixton, he was satisfied that his Duty Officer at the time had acted correctly, and that he had reinforced instructions to his staff that any person could make a complaint at a police station, which would be taken seriously.
- 25 Paul Andell said that he was present at Brixton police station at the time that a crowd of people appeared to want to complain but felt that they were not able to do so. As a result, he said that he had given the people present contact details for the Group should they have wished to pursue the matter.
- 26 In response to Mr Leon, Supt. Musker said that an investigation regarding the arrest of man on 22 December was ongoing and that CCTV footage had been seized [P.3, Para.32 06/02/09].
- 27 In response to Ms Griffiths, the Chair said that the Group had submitted a proposal to Acting Borough Commander Sutherland in relation to an 'early resolution' protocol between the police and the community, which would require funding, and involve a non-statutory means of raising incidents of concern in order that a matter could be resolved more quickly. However, she said that this would not preclude people from making a formal complaint [P.4, Para.37 06/02/09].
- 28 Gill Kenealy said that the Group was interested not only in the man who had been 'Tasered' in Brixton but also the CO19 firearms officer who had sworn at members of the public. In response, Supt. Musker said the matter would be dealt with once the criminal case had been concluded.
- 29 Marcia Rigg-Samuel said that her brother, Sean Rigg, had been at Brixton police station for fifty minutes before an ambulance arrived, which had been called half an hour after he had arrived there and when he was already clearly unwell [P.5, Para.53 06/02/09].
- 30 Ms Rigg-Samuel said that the family had met with the IPCC and had raised their concerns about the investigation. The original investigator being replaced. They had also discussed an interim report [P.5, Para.56 06/02/09].
- 31 In response to Mr Leon, Ch. Supt. Rowe said that it was totally incorrect to say that nothing would be done following a member of the public's complaint about the conduct of a police officer [P.7 Para.71 06/02/09].

- 32 In response to John Howard, The Chair said that the Group was awaiting the Coroner's report into the inquest of Jean Charles de Menezes before holding a meeting on the matter, to which the IPCC Chair, Nick Hardwick, would be invited [P.2 Para.75,79 06/02/09].
- 33 In response to Ms Rigg-Samuel, the Chair said that she had understood that the IPCC had sought the family's views about forming an IPCC Reference Group but would respect the family's wishes if it objected to it. [P.8 Para.83 06/02/09].
- 34 Ms Rigg-Samuel said that Supt. Musker had been quoted as saying that the Rigg family were being unfair by asking questions about what had happened to Sean Rigg. Ms Rigg-Samuel said that the family took great offence at the statement, particularly since the police involved in his arrest had still not been interviewed more than six months later.
- 35 Speaking from memory, Supt. Musker said the quote attributed to him was that he had said that the matter was a tragedy for everyone involved, Sean, the family and the police officers, and that it was unfair to comment until a robust and complete investigation had been carried through.
- 36 The Chair said that her understanding was that the hold-up for interviewing police officers involved in the arrest of Sean Rigg was not due to the police, who to date had not been asked for statements.
- 37 The Chair declined to take a motion (censuring the IPCC) on the grounds that motions needed to be debated by the Membership, in terms of their consequences generally and for CPCG, and voted on by the Membership alone. For practical reasons a public meeting was not always an appropriate place to do that.
- 38 In response to Most Rev. Bancroft McCartney, Det. Supt. John Corrigan said that the European ruling on the destruction of DNA profiles taken from persons subsequently not charged or convicted was being reviewed by the legal authorities, which usually led to them being implemented [P.8, Para.85 06/02/09].
- 39 To clarify, in the understanding that many people, particularly young people, had been criminalised by the taking of DNA samples, the Chair said that it was not for the police to decide whether it could or should destroy DNA profiles of innocent persons and that it was a parliamentary issue.
- 40 Mr Howard said that the government was considering the European directive to remove DNA samples from databases and would give a view on the matter in April 2009.
- 41 In response to Shane Collins, a TSG Officer said that a local resolution had been determined following the complaint aired at the Group meeting in October 2008, with the complainant and his family happy with the outcome [P.8, Para.86 06/02/09].
- 42 Mr Leon thanked Ch. Insp. Kirkpatrick and his officers for their efforts to try and save a Lambeth youth club.
- 43 In response to Ms Griffiths, Chair said that the £10k funding had been awarded to the Group to commission a community engagement project outlined in the Group's Briefing and that Lambeth people would be encouraged to undertake the work.

Lambeth Police Update

- 44 Borough Commander Ch. Supt. Rowe 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).
- 45 Ch. Supt. Rowe said that she understood how the Group felt about the tenure of her office and was conscious of the issue, and in her recent absence, she said that she appreciated the work started in respect of an IAG for Lambeth, a matter about which she wanted to work with the Group.
- 46 Ch. Supt. Rowe said that she was aware of the issue of complaints against police and she looked forward to discussing the Early Resolution proposal produced by the Group.
- 47 Ch. Supt. Rowe said that she wanted to give recognition and praise to Supt. Sutherland,

- Det. Supt. John Corrigan, Supt. Musker and Supt. Wilson, and all her staff, for looking after the borough while she was away, which was reflected by the improving performance figures.
- 48 Mr Andell said that it was good to see the falls in violent crime and gun enabled crime. However, Mr Andell said that the Group had concerns about public confidence, which was cumulative and affected specific communities disproportionately. Therefore, he said that a quantitative analysis of confidence needed to be balanced, qualitatively, with the community's views.
- 49 In response, Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe said that quantitative data was only one set of figures and the feedback provided by the Group showed that there was still much more work to be done.
- 50 In response to Mr Stephenson, Det. Supt. Corrigan said that in 2006 knife crime was a problem in the borough, which was the reason for Operation Blunt commencing in April of that year. Over the past few years, he said that the police had focused on knife crime and had since achieved a 30% reduction in knife enabled crime.
- 51 With regard to alcohol issues, violent crime and young people, Det. Supt. Corrigan said that the SLP was working closely together to address the problems around the issue of alcohol consumption and violent crime, focusing on the night-time economy, and work would commence in April 2009. Det. Supt. Corrigan stressed that the police always focused on areas of violent crime, of which alcohol was one, in both private and public spaces.
- 52 In relation to the source of firearms being brought into the country, Det. Supt. Corrigan said that a recent operation by the Serious Organised Crime Agency had resulted in a number of arrests of people in Lithuania and the UK.
- 53 Lee Jasper introduced a member of the public who claimed to have been subject to a number of armed Stops by police, although he had never been arrested or charged with an offence. As the member of the public was pursuing legal action the matter remained *sub judice* and he arranged to attend the Group office to discuss his issues.
- 54 Det. Supt. Corrigan said that there were three issues pertaining to the member of the public's grievances of which they had spoken, when they had met.
- 55 Firstly, Det. Supt. Corrigan said that there was the matter of his Criminal Record Bureau checks, which was being looked into. Secondly, in relation to his issues with the UK Border Agency, an enquiry was ongoing and he was unable to give an answer. Thirdly, there was a dispute regarding whether he had or did not have a security industry badge. **Mr Jasper asked for a report back on the member of public's case.**
- 56 In response to Stuart Horwood's concerns regarding the effect of a two metre square sign in Brixton Town Centre, warning of pickpockets operating in the area, Supt. Musker said that the sign was used to warn people who came to Brixton in the evenings to visit Brixton Academy. **However, he said that he had expected it to be smaller and in accepting the comment would address the issue.**
- 57 Vincent Atkins expressed his concerns about the serious problems involving youths, saying that the police knew who the main drug dealers and gun carriers were and that they should deal with them. He said that issues raised at the Group meeting had been the subject of recurrent discussion over many years and it was time to finally get the job done.
- 58 A member of the public (Clarence Thompson MBE) claimed that the London Development Agency (LDA) was planning to employ a group of people from Birmingham to manage gang mediation at a cost of £300K. He said that if there was an intention for the group to operate in Lambeth, there was already such a group called Code Seven which was doing excellent work with young people.
- 59 However, he said the property used by Code Seven to carry out its work in Offley Street SW9, which was full of their equipment, was to be closed down by the LDA, which was not renewing a lease, on 13

- March. He therefore asked the police to become involved in helping Code Seven.
- 60 Asher Senator, Code Seven, introduced some young people who, he said, had turned their lives around and were influential to others. Mr Senator thanked Ch. Insp. Jon Kirkpatrick for his assistance, such as helping to gain a contract with Phoenix to work with fifteen young people.
- 61 Mr Senator added that Derrick Anderson was going to help Code Seven save the building which they used and which the previous year had seen 10,000 people pass through.
- 62 With regard to police statistics, Mr Senator said that they did not only point to the work of the police but also of other workers in the community.
- 63 Ch. Insp. Kirkpatrick said that he agreed that Lambeth police's performance was due to partnership working and the involvement of the Group and the community, and there was a need to utilise the young people like those Mr Senator had presented. In relation to gang mediation, he said that it was extremely high risk in terms of health and safety, and needed professional knowledge, accountability and transparency.
- 64 Ch. Insp. Kirkpatrick said that at the time when police were discussing a gang mediation service, the appropriate transparency and standard operational procedures had not been, in his view, in place. Therefore, he said, no MPS money was invested at that stage and no money has been invested to date. Furthermore, he said that any mediation process the police did adopt would first be put forward to the Group for its opinion.
- 65 PC Errol Patterson said that much good work, particularly by one individual, was going on at Offley Street with little or no funding and for which support and recognition was needed. PC Patterson said that he would let the Group know how it could best assist the people involved.
- 66 A member of public raised the issue of 'postcode wars' and highlighted an incident the previous week when 50 youths from another area came to cause trouble near her home. She said nothing was being done about the matter and that the youths had to have somewhere to go. Furthermore, she suggested that funding for organisations such as Code Seven was needed and that if nothing was done there would soon be no youths left.
- 67 Ch. Inspector Kirkpatrick drew the meeting's attention to the Young and Safe commissioning event on 26 March to help Third Sector organisations and groups to bid for funding to deliver the kind of services for young people that had been raised. Ann Corbett said that she would circulate more information about the event via the Group.
- 68 Mr Jasper said that the Group, along with the Mayor of London, should intervene and tell LDA that it would be problematic to evict Code Seven on 13 March. The Chair asked the Borough Commander and Ms Corbett to convene an urgent meeting to discuss the proposed eviction at Offley Street.
- 69 Shane Collins referred to Form 696 concerning the gathering of details of bands playing at venues and asking for names and phone numbers of performers and ethnicity of audiences. In response, Supt. Musker said that CO14 [MPS Clubs and Vice Unit] led on safety and security and such information was required for risk assessments and was quite straightforward.
- 70 Having giving an account of a story in the national press about a publican asked by police to install CCTV in his pub, John Wainwright asked whether it was police policy. In response, Supt. Musker said that CCTV was recommended as good practice
- 71 Ms Bower said that the last set of Group minutes showed that there was lot of anger with the police at present.

Next Meeting

6.30 p.m. Tuesday, 7 April 2009

**Nettlefold Hall, Norwood High Street
West Norwood SE24**