

Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall Brixton SW2

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell (Chair), Paul Andell, Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Shane Collins, Gill Kenealy, Jim Toohill (Ind. Membs), Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Ros Munday (Clapham Community Partnership), Jane Warwick (LWA)

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP: Neil Flanigan, Jim Fairweather (WIESA); Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market Traders Assoc.); Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club); George Tuson (Streatham Common Southside NW); Peggy Tyler (Clapham Town NW), John Wainwright (Clapham Sector); Arulini Velmurugu (Lambeth Towers/Road TRA), Hazel Watson (Milkwood Rd RA)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Hope Barratt, Rod Brown, Richard Dutton, John Howard, Lena James, Veronica Ledwith, Richard Moore, Juneary Raymond

STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: *MPA* Susan Doran
LAMBETH COUNCIL, Cllr. Graham Pycock, John Readman, Ann Corbett, Ukent Milwood, Adina Bozga, Shaila Mohamed, Chris Heaume, Rene Katisa, Mark Rapley
METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave
BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE PC Robert Doncaster
CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE Claire Holder

VISITORS: Dolly Adams, Michael Adusa, Mimi Ashe, Shanakay Atkinson, Danielle Baker, Adrene Blake, Tim Boxall, Cara Campbell, Richard Charles, Fritz Engmann, Absalom Gray, Cheryl Griffiths, Ros Griffiths, Janna, Javier Giraldo, Tia Henry-Lindo, Matty, David Michael, Elizabeth M, AJ Nakasila, Matthew Obadiani, Zunade Powell, Jermaine Prempeh, Tennika Neil, Sharon Nipah, Mantu Roy, Saffy, Beryl Saunders, Patrick Sullivan, Suzzelee Thomas, Hilary-Claire Wears

APOLOGIES: Claire Belgard, Wally Channon, Maude Estwick, Rowena Estwick, Cllr. Betty Evans-Jacas, Rosemarie Falaiye, Patricia Fisher, Karl, Brian Mantell, Nick Mason, Sandra Moodie, Clare Moore, David Prichard-Jones, Martin Ryan, Michael, Fernando Senior, David Tomlinson, Arulini Velmurugu

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

Introduction

- 1 Anna Tapsell (the Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting following the August summer break. The Chair referred to the briefing paper which had been tabled and which informed the Group about the Board Member activities and events since the last Group meeting in July, and forthcoming events.
- 2 The Chair informed the meeting of the passing away over the summer of two Group members, Peter Harris and David Hart. The Chair said that Peter was a quiet, gentle,

decent man who regularly attended Group meetings and knew a lot about the community. Speaking of David, the Chair said that he was quite amazing campaigner for many years in the voluntary sector who continued to work right up to the end.

- 3 Ros Munday said that David was a bane of Lambeth Council who successfully fought for many causes and vulnerable people, and brought about changes in the borough as well as contributing to the National Palliative Care Council's End of Life Strategy amongst other things. Ms Munday said that she was hoping to organise a memorial for David at South London Synagogue in Streatham and would keep people posted.
- 4 Jane Warwick presented Lloyd Leon with a Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) award in recognition of his long service to the community as a member of the Lambeth Independent Custody Visitors, formerly known as the Lay Visitors to Lambeth Police Stations, of which Mr Leon was a founder member in 1981 following recommendations from Lord Scarman.
- 5 Mr Leon said the award had come as a great surprise to him but it was much appreciated, and he hoped that it would show other people that there were things they could do within the community to help others, especially young people, without seeking payment. As a volunteer, Mr Leon said that he had been visiting people held in police custody over many years and that he gained satisfaction when being greeted by people in the street who he had once met when they were being held in custody, to ensure that they had received their rights. In this respect, Mr Leon said that he was proud to have contributed to the improvement of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), although there was still some way to go.
- 6 Having received congratulations from the Chair for another successful Brixton Splash on 2 August, Ros Griffiths said the success of the fourth annual event, which saw 12,000 people pass through Brixton, was based on a team effort; a case of teamwork leading to dream work with part of the success due to partnership working with the police and local authority. She said that MPS Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson visited the event and witnessed his officers and the community

working together and that the event had now won over those who had initially been critical.

- 7 Ms Griffiths said that Brixton Splash organisers would be going all out to build upon its success for its fifth anniversary next year and make the growing event the biggest yet. Therefore, she asked people to put themselves forward as participants and not wait to be asked. Ms Griffiths said that Brixton Splash had set up a Trust and had received a great response from people wishing to become Trustees. Ms Griffiths thanked everyone who took part and said that the event had given the Group an opportunity to go out and meet people.

Minutes of the Meeting 2 June 2009

- 8 Minutes of the Meeting 7 July 2009 were accepted without amendment.

Matters Arising

- 9 The Chair said that there had been some progress in relation to setting up a meeting with Lambeth Head Teachers with the help of David Tomlinson and Nick Mason who had held discussions with schools, in particular the Head of Stockwell School, and the Group would proceed from there [Min 5, 07/07/09].
- 10 With regard to the Working Group which was writing a record of people's memories, feelings and thoughts about the tragic death of Jean Charles de Menezes, the Chair said that the Group was particular looking at the issues that the inquest failed to address, one of which was the amount of intelligence that the Muslim community had forwarded to the MPS prior to the failed bombers actions, especially in relation to Hussein Osman [Min 7, 07/07/09]. The Chair added that everyone's contribution would be welcome.
- 11 The Chair said the Group had received copies of the Council's Community Provision for Children and Young People in Lambeth 2009 containing details of all the provisions and activities Ward by Ward and their opening hours [Min 17, 07/07/09].
- 12 Cllr. Graham Pycock said that the Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee had

decided to set up a Scrutiny Commission to examine the Youth Service. He said that the three members of the Commission were Cllr. McKenna, Cllr. Weiss and himself and it would report back with its findings in January. A Young and Safe and Phoenix Briefing paper for the CPCG had been tabled [Min 18-22, 07/07/09].

- 13 Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave said that he had yet to have a briefing from the Group regarding the Youth Service trip to Birmingham, however, John Readman said that no police funds had been used for the trip [Min 20, 07/07/09].

Lambeth Police Update

- 14 The July Monthly Police Report for Financial Year 2009-10 was tabled.
- 15 Mr Ephgrave said that since reporting that robbery and burglary detection rates were very poor at the July meeting, with detection of the latter being the worst in the MPS at 10%, he could now report that it was the third best with a detection rate rise to 18%.
- 16 Richard Moore said that until fairly recently Lambeth's performance overall placed it in 31st place out of 32, while in turn the MPS performance overall was fairly poor on a national level and he wondered when the MPS would come up to national standards.
- 17 In response, Mr Ephgrave said that he could not speak about the performances of other police services and while the MPS had a range of issues that other forces didn't have to deal with, he would look to improve Lambeth's performance all round.
- 18 The Chair said that there would be an opportunity at the meeting in October for people to raise any policing issue that may not usually be brought up or was of a particular interest to them.
- 19 Pointing to the CAD Achievement figures, Paul Andell said that information and cooperation from the public was vital to community confidence and more effective policing, and he asked that Mr Ephgrave give an undertaking towards community oriented policing to improve confidence and effectiveness of policing.

- 20 In response, Mr Ephgrave said that he shared Mr Andell's view that the police needed the community's assistance in many aspects of policing and that the recent introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) had demonstrated a commitment to community oriented policing.
- 21 Mr Ephgrave gave an account of the restructuring of Lambeth police so as to make best of the borough's resources. The key changes were:
- 22 The Borough Commander would move his office from Frank O'Neill House to Brixton Police Station on 10 September, emphasising that it was not due to overriding interest in Brixton but because it was situated in the centre of the borough.
- 23 Superintendents would remain at geographical locations with a Superintendent and a Chief Inspector would be posted at Streatham Police Station.
- 24 Response policing would largely remain unchanged and the three control offices at Brixton, Kennington and Streatham would be retained, as well as services currently provided.
- 25 SNTs have been left entirely untouched for two reasons; there was a belief in the work they did and SNT officers could not be abstracted from their duties.
- 26 Changes would be made with regard to how Lambeth police organised itself in terms of its investigative ability, proactivity and intelligence. With regard to the latter, four intelligence units would be brought together under one central intelligence unit thereby releasing three officers for other roles. There would also be a single base at Brixton where all investigations around violent crime and public protection would be conducted, and single base for reactive investigations such as robbery and burglary.
- 27 A proactive capability would be housed at Clapham Police Station which was currently underused.
- 28 A Vice Unit based at Streatham would be formed to deal with issues of street prostitution and anti-social behaviour as of the 1 October.
- 29 It was expected that all the changes would be in place by January 2010 in order that the Lambeth could start the new calendar year with a more effective, more focused and more driven policing service for the borough.
- 30 Shane Collins commented on the contrast between a 300% increase of Stop and Search in a year with the 13% decrease in drug possession offences and 9% decrease in sanctioned detection rates for drug related offences. **Mr Collins also asked if the Group could have figures for drug dealing offences as it used to receive.**
- 31 In response, Mr Ephgrave said that the increase in the number of Stop and Searches was most probably due to the use of Section 60 on the borough, for which there were arguments for and against its use
- 32 Tia Henry-Lindo commented on the drop in sanctioned detection rates for Hate Crimes and asked if this was due to resources being reallocated from the public protection desk or Community Safety Unit and why that would be, given that as a rule Hate Crimes were under-reported and the decrease undermined public confidence.
- 33 Ros Griffiths said she was concerned that there was no clear strategy for measuring public confidence in the police, particularly within the Black Minority Ethnic communities. She said that she was also concerned about The Beat office on Coldharbour Lane which had been launched five years previously with the aim of changing the way the police and the community did business. However, she said during this time the office had largely remained closed and its name since changed to MPS Coldharbour Ward. She said that The Beat office was a missed opportunity and she was concerned about its current purpose, as it did not seem to be put to best use and not much was happening there.
- 34 With regard to the death in custody of Sean Rigg, the Chair said that the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) had said it would not issue its report until after the inquest into his death; which she said she would query. **The Chair said that she would query this with the IPCC as previous reports, notably on the death of 'Jean Charles de Menezes had been published ahead of an inquest.**

- 35 Rev. Pastor Mimi Asher, of Word of Grace Ministries, who had come to the meeting with a large number of young people from Myatts Field, said that on 13 August, young people leaving her church service were rushed by police, who seemed to have been laying in wait for them to conduct Stop and Search for no apparent reason. Later, she said that a Chief Inspector had apologised for the matter but she had not received an explanation why the young people, who were doing good work, had been targeted. She said that she wanted an explanation and reassurance that it would not happen again, as it was a discouraging experience for the young people.
- 36 Rev. Asher said she understood that the police officers involved were not from Lambeth and that local police knew nothing about it, which was frightening in terms of feeling safe, particularly as there were children in the building. She said the officers, thought to be TSG, told them that a Section 60 was in operation, which she thought was used for terrorism and completely opposite to what the youths were doing.
- 37 Furthermore, she said that the incident was disconcerting for new people who had come to the church, and while almost everyone was searched nothing was found. She said that the victims in all this were the young people.
- 38 Mr Ephgrave apologised to everyone concerned and said that it was a cock-up rather than a conspiracy, and that the s.60 was not carried out by the TSG but was part of Operation Blunt, a MPS-wide campaign targeting knife crime following the high number of fatalities involving young people in recent years. He said that the officers involved were drawn from a pool of officers London-wide and sent to areas where there was a perceived problem with knife crime.
- 39 Mr Ephgrave said that an Operation Blunt team would normally consist of a Sergeant and seven or eight constables who would arrive in a borough for a briefing before going out onto the streets to carry out their assignment.
- 40 Mr Ephgrave said that he would need to check details about the operation but on the evening referred to he understood that there were issues concerning young people at Myatts Field and extra resources had been called in to prevent a clash between gangs. He said that he could only assume that it was the decision of someone to go to the area of the church and a decision made to carry out a stop and search, which appeared to be the wrong decision.
- 41 Canon Ivelaw Bowman thanked the Minister for bringing the young people to the meeting and said that the police conduct was unforgivable and had to stop. He asked how the police could expect to gain trust and confidence of the black community, whose assistance they needed, by actions like this which happened all too often.
- 42 Gill Kenealy said that sometimes it appeared that some police officers were trying to provoke young people to make them react angrily, undermining the good efforts of committed local officers working hard to improve community relations. She added that the TSG needed to be reined in as they seemed to have their own agenda and she couldn't see them changing their approach.
- 43 While the Operation Blunt officers were not from TSG, Mr Ephgrave said that there connecting issues. In this respect, he said that he had met with TSG Ch. Supt. Michael Johnson who shared his concerns about the perception of TSG's reputation going before them. Therefore, to improve understanding, he said that they had agreed a scheme by which there would be a TSG Sergeant working with Lambeth police to see how interactions with the police could be achieved positively. Furthermore, changing the TSG officer over certain periods of time would allow for quite a number of TSG officers to experience working with borough based officers, which represented a start in actively addressing the situation.
- 44 Mr Leon said that the experience of the young people raised at the meeting was the reason for the Group coming into being and at the outset it was agreed that no police from outside the borough should operate in Lambeth without consulting the borough's top police officer. He said that if we expected young people to lead respectable lives and work with us we should not undo the progress made since the days of the 'sus

- law' when young people were arrested for robbery of persons unknown and thereby criminalised.
- 45 One of the young people said that at a previous Group meeting he had spoken about the small, overcrowded building in which they had to meet, and that the Group had said it had influence and could help towards finding larger premises. Yet, six months later, he said that nothing had changed.
- 46 **George Marshman, LBL Director of Community Safety, said that he and the Chair would do everything they could in terms of sorting out an alternative place for the young people to meet and would make arrangements to meet them at their current premises. John Readman, LBL Director of Children and Young People Service, also accepted an invitation to visit the premises.**
- 47 David Michael, Chair of Lewisham CPCG, said that he had raised Operation Blunt with his Borough Commander and found out that there was a secret policy being operated by senior officers in Lewisham to authorise s.60s without considering legality, evidence, proportionality, intelligence or information, in order to accommodate the Operation. Mr Michael said that the Group needed to investigate whether there was a similar situation in Lambeth practised by Mr Ephgrave's predecessors and which was continuing today, undermining trust and confidence in the community.
- 48 Lena James said that she was concerned about the incident and said that police officers should be trained to recognise young people who were not committing crimes but instead trying to do positive things with their lives and helping other young people to join them in being law abiding citizens.
- 49 Richard Moore said that in view of the criticism of the policing of G20, it seemed that far too many Superintendents and other senior officers were sat in police stations and control rooms and not out with officers on operations, which he recommended should be considered as part of the borough reorganisation of policing. He further suggested that Lambeth councillors, local inspectors and Youth Service workers should be more involved in such operations, not least to give advice and address community concerns.
- 50 **The Chair said that apart from Operation Blunt and TSG, officers from other police units operated in Lambeth such CO19 [Firearms], Trident and Diplomatic Protection Group and the Group needed to discuss further the community impact of their presence and operations at the Group meeting in October.**
- 51 A youth from Hackney said that a year ago he would have never had thought of coming over to Myatts Field until having seen some of the work done by the young people and the improvements they had made in trying to make their community better. However, he said that he did not see anyone helping them in the same way projects in Hackney did, and as young people trying to inspire other young people they deserved and needed as much help as they could get.
- 52 Another young person said that the police's role was to try to help people but there seemed to be a clash of ideas with young people being stereotyped as gang members. He said that if the police held such a view they should be trying to help them rather than trying to shut them down. He added that a couple of years ago people were afraid to walk through Myatts Field and now, because of the negative police presence at the church, people were turning away.
- 53 Jane Warwick, Chair of Lambeth Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs), said that ICVs were hearing more and more complaints about the excessive use of force and violence which was a cause for concern.
- 54 Like many others, John Howard said that he was pleased to see the young people at the meeting and he hoped they would keep on coming. Mr Howard said that he had been with the Group since its beginning, during which time he had seen delegation after delegation of mainly black, young people come to the Group with grievances but nothing ever changed, unlike the situation of changing Borough Commanders which kept taking the Group back to where it started.
- 55 Mr Howard said that when apologising, Mr Ephgrave could have said that the officers

involved had been identified, reprimanded and disciplined, which would have offered something to the young people who had suffered rudeness and injustice. However, he said that in such instances he had never heard of any police officer having been disciplined, let alone convicted, of a death of a black person in police custody. John Wainwright added that the police had scored a spectacular own goal.

- 56 ***Mr Ephgrave said that he had not spoken to the officers from Operation Blunt as he had yet to see the roll call of those who took part but it would be done.*** Mr Ephgrave said that he was committed to Lambeth and addressing all the issues that the Group had raised, although there were only certain things he could do without having to go to other parts of the MPS.
- 57 Mr Ephgrave said that the proposed discussions at the Group's October meeting concerning how police interactions occurred should not be underestimated and would need to be well planned since it would be discussion about how London was policed, which involved a huge number of issues being played out in every borough on a daily basis.
- 58 In response to Neil Flanigan, Mr Ephgrave said that the use of s136 of the Mental Health Act was not featured in the police statistics because it was not a criminal offence but rather a power that the police could use. However, he said that he could look into the number of times s.136 had been used in the borough.

Young and Safe

- 59 John Readman said that Lambeth would be publishing its Youth Strategy in October and introduced Chris Heaume of the Youth Strategy Refresh Project who gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) and spoke about some of the strategy's key points including that the Council had to show that all young people had at least four hours access to positive activities such as sports, arts, music and dance amongst others.
- 60 Rene Katisa gave a demonstration of the Young Lambeth website <http://www.younglambeth.org.uk/>

- 61 One young person said that she had been seeking work for a long time and that Connexions was not really helping her despite her qualifications. In response, Mr Heaume said that it was difficult for young people to find jobs in London as there was a great deal of competition. However, he said that he would be happy to talk to young people about how they could improve their chances to find work.
- 62 Mr Readman said that there were more apprenticeships schemes being started in the borough as a way to finding work and said that young people could find out more by talking to a Connexions advisor.
- 63 In response to Ros Griffiths, Ms Katisa said that the Young Lambeth website and been design in consultation with young people and that local authorities were bound to provided information for them and their parents and carers. She said that links to the website would be provided for all schools and youth centres.
- 64 In response to Ms Griffiths, Mr Readman said that the Council's record for recruiting young people was shocking but he did not have the precise figures. However, he said that each department of the Council was setting targets to attract and recruit young people.
- 65 Ros Munday said that at many meetings the Council has made lots of promises to young people and she hoped that the tried and tested work of the young people from Myatts Field would receive the support of the Council and that a meeting would take place them within the next couple if weeks
- 66 In response to Rod Brown, Mr Readman said that he believed that Lambeth had at least eight detached youth workers. With regard to the Old Library in West Norwood, he said that it was targeted for youth provision but was used by the wider community.

Next Meeting

6.30 p.m. Tuesday, 6 October 2009

Old Library, West Norwood SE27