

The Old Library Centre, West Norwood SE27

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell (Chair), Shane Collins, Jim Toohill (Ind. Membs), Ros Munday (Clapham Community Partnership), Wesley Walters-Stephenson (Your Story), Jane Warwick (Lambeth Women's Aid)

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP: Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market Traders Assoc.); Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club); Anna Long (Churches Together in Clapham), Brian Mantell (South London Synagogue), Nick Mason (Lambeth Summer Projects), David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park RA) George Tuson (Streatham Common Southside NW); Arulini Velmurugu (Lambeth Towers/Road TRA), Hazel Watson (Milkwood Rd RA)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Rod Brown, Richard Dutton, Rosemarie Falaiye, Tia Henry-Lindo, Veronica Ledwith, Richard Moore, Fernando Senior

STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: MPA Susan Doran **LAMBETH COUNCIL**, Cllr. Lorna Campbell, Cllr. Irene Kimm, George Marshman **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Commander David Zinzan, Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave, Ch. Insp. John Dale (TSG), Inspector Malcolm Nichol **BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE** PC Robert Doncaster, Emma Hucks

VISITORS: Roger Baker, Kelly ben Maimon, Tim Boxall, John Cheetham, Allan Douglas-Smith, Susan Deswarte, Cheryl Griffiths, Ros Griffiths, Abigail Jones (LWA), Cara Lloyd, M. P. McVie, Clovis Reid MBE, Mike Smith, Noel Vella, Hilary Wears

APOLOGIES: Doye Akinlade, Paul Andell, Ivelaw Bowman, Jean Carpenter, Wally Channon, Ann Corbett, Neil Flanigan, Gill Kenealy, Patricia Moberly, Clare Moore, David Prichard-Jones, Peggy Tyler, Cathy Valentine, Cllr. Andrew Gibson, Cllr. Graham Pycock, Cllr. Claire Whelan, Cllr. John Whelan

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

Introduction

- 1 Anna Tapsell (Chair) reported the sudden death of Group member and former Group Board member Paul Reynolds on 27 September. Paul's funeral on 5 October at Corps Christi Church, Brixton Hill, had been attended by members of his family, Group members and friends and colleagues from the many organisations and groups that Paul had worked with over years. At the service people had spoken of Paul's contribution to his local community and beyond. At the Group meeting, Jim Toohill paid tribute to Paul and read out a poem.
- 2 Anna Tapsell (Chair) welcomed Commander David Zinzan to the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting 8 September 2009

- 3 Minutes of the Meeting 8 September 2009 were accepted with the following amendments: Add after last line of Min 53 'by arresting officers, most often TSG.
- 4 Add Patricia Moberly to Apologies.

Matters Arising

- 5 For clarification, Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave said that the police station being used to house a proactive policing capability was Cavendish Road Police Station, Clapham [Min 27, 08/09/09].
- 6 Figures for drug dealing offences had been included in the Police Report as requested [Min 30, 08/09/09].
- 7 Ros Griffiths said that at some point the Group needed to discuss the use of the Coldharbour Lane Ward Office, formerly a community office called The Beat, and the remit of the PCSOs working from there.
- 8 Ms Griffiths praised PC Errol Patterson for assisting at a funeral of a man shot dead near the Ministry of Sound nightclub on 31 August. She said that off-duty PC Patterson, having seen a lone officer trying to coordinate traffic wardens and a crowd of 1000 people, had gone to put his uniform on and returned to help his colleague bring some peace to the situation. Ms Griffiths questioned why there were no PCSOs at hand [Min 33, 08/09/09].
- 9 Mr Ephgrave said that PCs were distinct from PCSOs with the latter's main function being to provide a high visibility presence as a means of offering reassurance with low level powers of enforcement, such as in relation to anti-social behaviour. He added that dealing with crowds such as a funeral was a role which PCSOs should be undertaking.
- 10 The Chair said that the IPCC's report into the death of Sean Rigg may not be published until after the Coroner's inquest, although Sean Rigg's family would obviously be given a copy. The Chair said that following the inquest and the reports publication the Group would hold a

meeting to discuss its outcome, if that was what the Rigg family wished [Min 34, 08/09/09]

- 11 In response to Lloyd Leon, Mr Ephgrave said that Operation Blunt had been deployed in Myatts Field as a result of intelligence that there would be an outbreak of disorder occurring in the area, which seemed a sensible response at the time [Min 40, 08/09/09].
- 12 In response to Mr Leon, Mr Ephgrave said that he had not yet spoken with the officers involved in the Blunt operation at Myatts Field but dialogue with the young people from the area was ongoing. George Marshman added that the Youth Services, Community Safety and the police were trying hard to see what could be done for the young people of Myatts Field and that the Chair, PC Errol Patterson, John Readman and Ann Corbett had met with them to discuss finding new premises and to support their church in gaining charitable status, which would assist them in applying for funding and benefitting from services [Min 46&56, 08/09/09].
- 13 David Tomlinson expressed his concerns that eight of twenty-one Wards in Lambeth apparently had no Community Safety coordinator, while some others were doubling up. The result of this, he said, was that Community Safety was not doing the job it should be, nor fulfilling its statutory responsibilities in terms of working with the police.
- 14 For example, in seeking to use ASBOs, he said that the police were missing sections needed to be filled in by the Council or the police were left to fill in the Council's tick boxes for them, at a cost to the community. Mr Tomlinson added that it was all very well for the Council to say that it would support the people of Myatts Field but it did not have the people to do so and needed to look at the matter.
- 15 ***Mr Marshman said that he would report back in full detail why the Council was having difficulty recruiting staff, although there were no financial reasons for vacant posts.*** In the meantime, he said that senior Council officers would continue their discussions with the young people.

Lambeth Police Update

- 16 The September Monthly Police Report for Financial Year 2009-10 was tabled.
- 17 Mr Ephgrave gave a PowerPoint presentation on policing in Lambeth (see attached)
- 18 A young member of the public asked whether police units coming into the borough worked in conjunction with local police or on their own and how many people arrested by the police were actually convicted.
- 19 In response, Mr Ephgrave said that if an operation was known about in advance, and could be planned for, then Lambeth police would work together with outside units. However, when some intelligence required an immediate response, he said that there was often not time to make joint plans, although borough Superintendent would be informed that operations were happening.
- 20 With regards to the number of people arrested compared to those convicted, Mr Ephgrave said that he did not have those figures available as the police information only went as far as judicial disposal, i.e. whether a person was charged or not .
- 21 In relation to the number of people arrested for dealing Class B drugs, the Chair said that it would be interesting to know whether the success could be evaluated in terms of measuring the level of unrest in the community that can arise from heavy police activity, which was always a risk.
- 22 Mr Ephgrave said that every two weeks Lambeth police held Tasking meetings to analyse crime over the previous fortnight and try to balance the best way of tackling the various issues with the resources available (e.g. which officers would be tasked), with the expectation of reducing a particular crime.
- 23 For example, he said that if a large number of officers were placed in particular area it would invariably deter crime, such as the drug dealing and anti-social behaviour in Brixton Town Centre, but that there was also the risk of displacement to consider. Therefore, he said that it was a balance between robust policing,

- which most people wanted, and not appearing too oppressive.
- 24 In response to Arulini Velmurugu, Mr Ephgrave said that having looked at a snapshot of crime against people with disabilities in Lambeth it appeared that it was proportionately in line with crimes against the general population. However, he said that if the Home Office produced a definition for crimes against disabled people allowing them to be flagged up perhaps a different picture would be revealed
- 25 With regard to the drop in sanctioned detections for Hate Crime, Hilary Wears said that there was a need for more specialist training of police officers, particularly the new, younger officers on the borough although she was aware that the training budget had been reduced by 50%.
- 26 Ms Wears said that she was shocked to learn that Thornton SNT had been sent to work in Lambeth Walk because as a member of Thornton SNP she had not been informed, although she hadn't seen any of the SNT officers since the Thornton Ward Domestic Violence Awareness Day two weeks previously. Furthermore, she said that her SNT worked a four days on, four days off rota with shifts from 5.00 p.m. to 3.00 a.m., which she said meant greater invisibility and less visibility.
- 27 In response, Mr Ephgrave said that Diversity Training was part of the already paid for training undertaken by police officers. With regard to SNTs, he said that his decision to establish a Vice Unit based at Streatham would release SNT officers back to return to day work in their Wards.
- 28 In relation to MPS's Five Ps (Presence, Performance, Productivity, Professionalism and Pride), Ros Griffiths said that she would like to see examples in action of the police working with the community as partners using the Three Cs: Communication, much better and more effective; Cooperation, from police officers locally; and Coordination, with TSG, CO19, Dog Units any other units coming into Lambeth
- 29 Mr Ephgrave said that coordination was part of the police's day to day core business and that a huge amount of effort went into the Lambeth's coordinated responses. Notwithstanding fast time responses, and in following the National Intelligence Model system, representatives of all the different units in the borough regularly met for Tasking meetings and were given responsibilities for which they were accountable.
- 30 Mr Zinzan said that the MPS was a huge and particularly complex organisation with many specialist units operating across London, such as Serious Organised Crime, Flying Squad, CO19, Trident, Counter Terrorism and officers dealing with cross border issues. He said that part of his role was to inform Borough Commanders about what was going on with such units which could lead to re-writing borough coordinated plans and priorities, particularly those involving fast time responses. Mr Zinzan said that coordination was key to how police worked while at the same time measuring threat, harm and risk.
- 31 The Chair said that it was the view of many that Jean Charles de Menezes would not have been shot dead had the police in charge of operations at the centre consulted with Lambeth's Borough Commander, who had intelligence that the police never used. She added that it was clear that there was huge value in consulting local officers.
- 32 Ros Munday said that SNT police officers originally signed up for three years but were now being replaced by officers coming in for just six months and who appear to have had little training and motivation. With regard to PCSOs, she said that they were still patrolling in twos, talking to each other and oblivious to what was going on around them whilst looking like security guards and wearing their uniforms incorrectly.
- 33 Ms Munday said that the SNT scheme was failing badly in Lambeth and pointed to a lack of communication with the public such as a newsletter informing the community about who they and what their priorities were. She added that the cut in pay for SNT police officers discouraged them from joining Ward based policing units.

- 34 In response, Mr Ephgrave said that tenure for a SNT police officer was two years and he agreed that there needed to be continuity and commitment. However, he said that regrettably the removal of a payment was putting people off from volunteering as it was not in their favour and that shift patterns did not compare favourably with other shifts. Therefore, he said that with fewer volunteers the only solution had been to place officers in SNTs for a period of six months.
- 35 Mr Zinzan said that he agreed with Ms Munday that leadership was important and officers should be told that they would have to join SNTs and to do their best in the role, as it was part of the job that they had entered. With regard to the removal of the payment, Mr Zinzan said that SNTs had been recognised as being important and that a decision had been made to reconsider the matter, and that next year more officers would be attracted to the role.
- 36 With regard to single patrol, Mr Ephgrave said that it was the norm for all officers up to ten or more years ago, and many officers today had never done it. However, he said that he was keen to enforce it. Equally, he said that he was keen that officers should be presentably dressed.
- 37 Kelly ben Maimon, Chair of Moorlands Estate TRA, said that a housing officer had showed youths on her estate pictures that had taken of them which appeared to have been of professional quality. She said that if there was any sharing of information involved between the police and the estate's Housing Association it needed to be done sensitively and confidentially.
- 38 With regard to her estate, Ms ben Maimon said that 'broken society' was a fitting term, as youths there were out of control and some residents would like to see zero tolerance policing. She added that a lot of anti-social behaviour was not reported to the police because of a lack of confidence in them, which was below average. On the other hand, she praised the TSG for the way she had seen them deal with situations.
- 39 With regard to the police statistics, Ms ben Maimon asked if there was a mechanism through which she could verify their authenticity.
- 40 In relation to zero tolerance, Mr Ephgrave said there was issue of striking a balance between putting in police resources to tackle a problem and disproportionately affecting the lives of those people who weren't involved in the activities that people want to see prevented.
- 41 In terms of information sharing, Mr Ephgrave said that the police were signed up to a protocol with Lambeth Housing Department and that if anyone was in breach of it the police would need to know, which could perhaps lead to a review of the protocol.
- 42 With regard to intelligence gathering, Mr Marshman said that the Council worked closely with the police via the Community Safety Team and that all information was strictly confidential. However, he said that in the past there had been a tactic used to photograph young people to deter them from offending, which the Group had successfully objected against and which no longer took place.
- 43 In terms of security at Southwyck House, Moorlands Estate, Mr Marshman said that he had recently met with tenants and in conjunction with Community Safety, Lambeth police and the Housing Department they would look at how security could be improved, such as by having a greater police presence, designing out areas where youths could hide and identifying money to address the problem.
- 44 However, Mr Marshman said that it was not just a police and Council problem and an increased police presence could not be maintained in perpetuity, and that everyone needed to work together. He said that it was his job to make the community safer and get various elements of the Council to participate, such as Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) whose head, John Readman, was now beginning to attend Group meetings.
- 45 Mr Moore asked Mr Marshman if he could provide information about parts of the Council were not complying, as required, with s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 [i.e. the level

- of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken in the day-to-day of local bodies and organisations].
- 46 In response to Mr Moore, Mr Marshman said that he had not intended to suggest that CYPs was not working jointly with Community Safety, but was referring to the fact it had not until recently given account of itself to the Group.
- 47 ***In response to John Wainwright, Mr Ephgrave said that a police officer spending only six hours per week on the beat was clearly unacceptable and was a figure probably calculated by taking an average of all police personnel, not all of whom's function was to patrol. However, he said that he would be interested to see the figure taking into consideration SNTs and 24 hour response teams and report back.***
- 48 With regard to the case of a mother killing her daughter and committing suicide as a result of constant harassment from neighbours, as reported in the national press, Mr Ephgrave said that such cases would probably need to be addressed in conjunction with the Council.
- 49 For example, Mr Marshman said Council licensing officers and street trading officials had coordinated with the police to deal with a problem of street drinking and anti-social behaviour in a particular cross-border area at night. He said that it was perhaps the first time that the police and the Council had worked in this way and that they were looking to work together in the future to address issues that neither could solve on their own.
- 50 ***Pastor Mimi Asher said that she and her colleagues were still awaiting an explanation regarding the Stop and Search of her congregation as reported at the last Group meeting.*** However, she said that while PC Errol Patterson was doing some great work in gaining young people's trust and restoring young people's confidence in policing, she had heard that he was being removed as a Community Liaison Officer and she would like to be reassured that he would stay in post.
- 51 Mr Ephgrave said that he had no notion where the rumour that PC Patterson, for whom he had great respect, was being moved came from, and that PC Patterson could continue in his role for as long as he liked.
- 52 Shane Collins questioned the reasoning behind Operation Blunt which had carried out 5000 Stop and Search and only made 360 arrests with only 3% of those charged. Mr Collins said that he wondered about the validity of such an operation which could have left up to 97% of those stopped disgruntled.
- 53 With regard to the TSG, Mr Collins said that half of their arrests were for possession of Class B drugs, presumably Cannabis, and of 68 dealers, when the Government's strategy was to focus on Class A drug dealers.
- 54 Mr Collins said that over the past three years the Government had been conducting trials at three locations across the country, the Maudsley, Darlington and Bournemouth, in which 150 people addicted to heroin were given the drug in a safe environment under controlled circumstances with no heroin allowed to be taken off the premises. Mr Collins said that the trial had been deemed a success and that the National Treatment Agency appointed panel of experts had suggested that the treatment should be rolled out nationwide.
- 55 Mr Collins said that the trial had led to a huge drop in crime and a drop in addicts having to buy heroin off drug dealers. As the scheme had consequences in terms of improved health for addicts and fewer crimes committed by them, Mr Collins asked if the SLP would be willing to support it.
- 56 With regard to arrests for dealing Class B drugs, Mr Ephgrave said that there was a view that it was not worth the effort as court outcomes did little to discourage it. However, he said that another view was that dealing in small amounts of Cannabis was anti-social behaviour. That said, Mr Ephgrave said it was against the law and he expected TSG to make arrests, although most were never charged because the small amount that dealers had on them would not lead to a prosecution.
- 57 In respect of the heroin trial, Mr Ephgrave said that on the face of it the results appeared outstanding and in general principle he could

perhaps support something which reduced crime and improved the health of addicts, although he would need to know more about the programme.

- 58 Mr Toohill said that under the Police and Criminal Act 1984 (PACE), there had to be good grounds for a Stop and Search, and up till recently the majority of them were carried out under the conditions of PACE. Over the past two year's, however, he said that there had been both an considerable increase in non-PACE Stops (s60 and s44/s43), which do not require 'good grounds', together with increasing reference to the use of Stop and Search as a deterrence. He queried whether there was effectively erosion the principles of PACE underway [nb Stops and Searches to gather intelligence would not constitute good grounds and would not be legal under PACE].
- 59 Mr Toohill said in the light of current knife crimes people understood why this was happening, however he said it was time to ask whether the balance had been tipped too far, as the incident at Myatts Field raised last month perhaps attested.
- 60 With regard to Stop and Search, Mr Ephgrave said that we lived in a different world from 25 years and society today was facing very difficult challenges. However, he said he thought that PACE was a good piece of legislation and it was a shame that it appeared to have been eroded by present circumstances. However, he said there was debate within the MPS about how s.60 was being used and he shared the Groups concerns.
- 61 The Chair said that it would be useful if the Group was always informed about when blanket s.60s were being employed.
- 62 ***Richard Moore asked if the Group could have a police report on business crime. He also asked if an audit could be provided in relation to who had responsibility for particular policing matters which did not only lay with the police.***

Any Other Business

- 63 Clovis Reid MBE said that Krystal FM, a community radio station, was seeking support to be granted a FM Radio licence for south London and had already received the backing of the Group who had written of OFFCOM on their behalf. The station aimed to involve people between 15 and 35 as volunteers, giving them training, experience in broadcasting and other aspects of the media to give them a positive outlook. Mr Toohill said that the Board had assured itself of Krystal FM's proposers bona fides and had drafted a letter of support for their application, for which there was general agreement from the floor of the meeting.

Next Meeting

6.00 p.m. Tuesday, 3 November 2009

Karibu Centre, Gresham Road, Brixton SW9