

## Stockwell Community Centre SW4

**PRESENT:** CPCG **BOARD:** Anna Tapsell (Chairperson), Paul Andell, Gill Kenealy, Jim Toohill (Ind. Membs), Sandra Moodie (Cressingham Gdns TRA), Ros Munday (Clapham Community Partnership), **COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP:** Jean Carpenter (Flipside), John Frankland (Herne Hill Society); Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club), Anna Long (Churches Together in Clapham); Brian Mantell (South London Synagogue), Catriona Robertson (Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum), David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park RA), George Tuson (Streatham Southside NW), Peggy Tyler (Clapham Town NW), Arulini Velmurugu (Lambeth Towers TRA), John Wainwright (Clapham SWG) **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:** Hope Barrett, Rod Brown, Richard Dutton Lena James, Veronica Ledwith, David Prichard-Jones, Clare Moore, Richard Moore, Cheryl Sealey, Hilary-Claire Wears **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: LAMBETH COUNCIL** Cllr. Donatus Anyanwu, Ann Corbett **METROPOLITAN POLICE AUTHORITY** Susan Doran **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave, Supt. Gary Richardson, Ch. Insp. John Dale (TSG), Insp. Malcolm Nichol **BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE** PC Rob Doncaster, PC Emma Hughs

**VISITORS:** Peter Adusen, Rev. Mimi Asher, Kelly ben Maimon, T. Bethane, Mark Brown, Jim Fairweather, Eddy Greaves, Ros Griffiths, Abigail Jones, Karl L., Elizabeth Minnow, Kareem Moore, Patrick O'Sullivan, Jermaine Prempeh,

**APOLOGIES:** Wally Channon, Shane Collins, Rosemarie Falaiye, Neil Flanigan, Elette Francis, Jade Holvey, Albert Lorro, Patricia Moberley, Georgina Nipah, Sarah Parker, Cllr. Graham Pycoc, Beryl Saunders, Fernando Senior, Noel Vella, Jane Warwick, Hazel Watson

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

### Introduction

- 1 Anna Tapsell (Chair) welcomed Supt. Gary Richardson of Operation Trident to the meeting.
- 2 Paul Andell (Vice-Chair) paid tribute to Abdul Sultan Virani who had died on 17 November. He spoke of Mr Virani's wide ranging contributions to community and voluntary work, both locally and nationally. Mr Virani was particularly remembered for his patient and reasoned contributions to CPCG over the many years during which he served as a representative for the Lambeth Pensioners Action Group.

- 3 The Chair informed the meeting that the Board had accepted the Individual Member application for Group membership from Hilary-Claire Wears.
- 4 The Chair referred the meeting to the tabled papers including CPCG Briefing paper.

### Minutes of the Meeting 3 November 2009

- 5 Minutes of the Meeting 3 November 2009 were accepted without amendment.

### Matters Arising

- 6 ***Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave said that he had produced the first ever draft of a Problem Profile of Crimes Against Business in Lambeth, which would soon be ready for circulation*** [Minute 83, 03/11/09].
- 7 Ros Griffiths said that many people who had attended the last meeting to discuss the issue of CO19 firearms officers operating routinely in Lambeth had left the meeting disappointed because they had not been given enough time to raise their concerns. She said that while the issue of Sexual Violence on Women was important, it was also necessary to go with the flow of a meeting and more time should have been given to the issue of armed police and that the situation could have been managed better on the night.
- 8 In response, the Chair said that the panel for the Sexual Violence on Women agenda item had been assembled some considerable time before the meeting to coincide with the movement for the Elimination of Violence Against Women's White Ribbon Campaign. Therefore, she said, it had been neither desirable nor possible to defer the agenda item. On the other hand, she said that the CO19 issue had occurred after the agenda had been set, but even so the length of the meeting had been extended despite being aware that staff at the venue were not expected to stay beyond 9.00 pm.

9 ***In response to Richard Moore, the Chair said that the Group would look into finding a date for inviting CO19 to a meeting to give an interactive demonstration of how firearms officers were trained.***

10 David Prichard-Jones said that while he appreciated that Sexual Violence needed to be addressed, the Group should fix a date as early as possible for CO19 to return for a meeting in order give who wanted to raise their concerns an opportunity to do so.

11 Lloyd Leon said that he disagreed with Ms Griffith's view that engagement with the black community and the police was going backwards and that he would continue to attend meetings and put his points across, even though he did not expect everyone to agree about everything all the time [Minute 101, 03/11/09].

12 Mr Leon said he had been really disappointed and annoyed about the way the disrespectful manner in which the Chair had been treated at the last meeting and that having a different point of view was not an excuse.

### Lambeth Police Update

13 Mr Ephgrave 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).

14 In recognising the huge increase in residential burglaries during February and March 2009, Mr Ephgrave said that he was committed to dealing the issue which had been compounded by an increase in private multi-occupancy addresses. In this respect he said that he was working with insurance companies to make sure that landlords acknowledged their responsibilities in terms of providing secure properties. He said that he was also working with the Council on a leafleting campaign.

15 David Tomlinson said that while residential burglary was a borough-wide priority and was concentrated in certain areas, Vassall

and Stockwell Wards no longer had a major problem, yet the burglary priority was overriding priorities agreed by SN Panels at ward level. Mr Tomlinson said that while police patrols acted according to borough priorities he would wish to see SN Panel priorities remaining paramount.

16 Mr Ephgrave said that he accepted the importance of Ward priorities and that SN Teams were the best placed to deal with them, as they were better connected and more familiar with the area. However, he said that there was a need to find a way whereby SN Panels' priorities could continue to be addressed while response teams and detectives continued to work when called to deal with burglaries.

17 In respect of Hate Crime, Mr Ephgrave said that the number of incidents was relatively small, which made any increase in terms of percentages appear dramatic.

18 With regard to public confidence in the police, Mr Ephgrave said that according to public surveys Lambeth had scored better than the MPS average while a service users' questionnaire showed an even higher mark.

19 Hilary Wears said that she failed to see how the confidence in police could be so high and cited the inability of her SN Team to respond within 48 hours due to its four days on, four days off shift pattern. Meanwhile, she said that there had been an escalation of incidents in Thornton Ward over the past six weeks, including attempted murder, GBH, attempted abduction and a stabbing, and people were still waiting to give statements.

20 In response, Mr Ephgrave said that SN Teams' shift patterns were designed to maximise the coverage given by officers, i.e. twelve hour shifts, which differed in terms of outcomes from eight hour shifts. ***With regard to the incidents she had raised and the police's response, he said that he would ask Ch. Insp. Jon Kirkpatrick to do some research into the matter and that he would talk further with her outside of the meeting.***

- 21 Mr Ephgrave reported the transfer of Supt. Dave Musker to CO5, where he would join former Lambeth officer Ch. Supt. Alistair Sutherland. Mr Ephgrave said that he had fought to keep Supt. Musker on the borough as long as he could but he had to accept the decision. **He added that Supt. Musker would still have links to Lambeth in his new role and he would report back in January with regard to Supt Musker's replacement.**
- 22 **In reply to John Wainwright, Mr Ephgrave said that he was confident that his officers would not fabricate arrests in order to gather DNA samples, not least as they were too stretched to go through the procedures, and that the police's response needed to be proportionate. He said that he would report back in January with some figures.**
- 23 Mr Leon said that like former Lambeth officer Denis O'Connor, now head of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, he was concerned that the police were not behaving properly. He said police officers were stopping people simply to reach targets and gather DNA, which criminalised innocent people.
- 24 Following three robberies on licensed premises in the borough, Mr Ephgrave said that the recent phenomenon was perhaps due to large amounts of cash on the premises from daily or weekend takings. The Chair agreed with Mr Moore that a scheme was perhaps needed in order that publicans could discuss issues with the police such as a safer pubs scheme and the use of panic buttons as well as receiving advice.
- 25 With regard to the Policing Pledge, Ros Griffiths said that she struggled with the specifics and how it translated locally, and that some clarity was needed. In terms of confidence, she that The Beat office on Coldharbour Lane, a point of police contact, was never open while the record shop and mini-cab office across the road had been raided by police using dogs. She said that she had tried to contact Ch. Inspector Suzanne Wallace and PC Errol Patterson but it was to no avail. Ms Griffith's added that feedback should be sought from the community regarding the Policing Pledge and some resolutions sought.
- 26 In response, Mr Ephgrave said that Coldharbour Ward SN Team had moved into The Beat whilst PC Patterson was also stationed there, a fact which was advertised on the office window. **However, he said that while The Beat was not open 24/7 like Brixton Police Station, he would look into information about its opening hours and contact details being displayed.**
- 27 Stuart Horwood remarked that confidence in policing of the Brixton Market area was much better than it was prior to the No Deal initiative to address drug dealing in the vicinity four years ago and that police officers now appeared to more purposeful and more willing to talk to people. However, he said that after all the hard work by the police, the Council and community to rid the Market of its clutter, the temporary market on the corner of Brixton Road and Coldharbour Lane had led to more drug dealers on the streets with more places to hide among.
- 28 Mr Ephgrave said that while the market was legal Mr Horwood's concerns were not perhaps without merit and discussions were taking place about a range of tactics to tackle drug dealing such as Stop and Search and using passive dogs.
- 29 In response to Arulini Velmurugu, Mr Ephgrave said that displacement of drug dealers to other locations as a result of police action was a difficult issue, and could be said to solving one problem by creating another. He said that the issue of drugs was a national strategic one that needed to be seriously considered and he was deeply committed to dealing with it. However, he said that while enforcement was important it was not the complete solution.
- 30 Paul Andell said that the drugs market was not a hopeless case and it could be changed by focusing on Community Harm Reduction such as protecting vulnerable estates.

**Operation Trident**

- 31 Supt. Gary Richardson said that he had come to address the Group on the role of Operation Trident with regard to murder investigations, its Independent Advisory Group (IAG) and Witness Protection and Witness Anonymity.
- 32 Supt. Richardson said that Trident had been formed around ten years ago as a response to concerns from the black community about violent gun crime. Since then, he said that Trident had grown into a pan-London standing operation responding to murder, weapon conversion and gun smuggling, and had its own Intelligence Team and Community Team.
- 33 Cheryl Sealey, IAG member, elucidated further by saying that Trident had been pressed for by members of the Group, i.e. Ivelaw Bowman, Lee Jasper, Arlene Mundle and herself, following the murder of Avril Johnson, a young mother of two from Brixton, in 1998.
- 34 In terms of the level of criminality, Supt. Richardson said that in the financial year 2009-10 there had so far been 334 reported shootings, of which 5 had been murders. This compared with 238 shootings and 14 murders in 2008-09, and 288 shootings and 18 murders in 2007-08.
- 35 With regard to Trident IAG, which met every month, Supt. Richardson said that it was made up of eighteen members selected by the IAG itself. The membership, which included representation from the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), Black Police Association, Housing, Schools and Youth responsibility, were considered as advisors and critical friends who challenged Trident officers and their ways of working. For example, the IAG gave advice on advertising campaigns and had its own media sub-Group. Furthermore, he said that IAG members attended crime scenes and parts of the armed operations that followed.
- 36 On one particular sensitive matter, Supt. Richardson said that the IAG had posed the question of police considering greatly reduced sentences for a 'supergrass' in return for information and evidence, which was deemed to be a good idea if it led to more crimes being solved.
- 37 In relation to the Witness Protection Programme, on which there were only a few individuals, and Witness Anonymity, Supt. Richardson said the IAG had great deal of influence in terms of how the legislation had been formed while IAG members also assisted victims' families through demonstrating the process of Trident investigations.
- 38 In response to the Chair, Supt. Richardson said that Trident did not have to go through the newly formed CO5 for management of their firearms operations when armed Trident officers were involved in crimes in action and a threat to life; higher risk operations of which Trident had great experience.
- 39 In response to Mr Wainwright, Supt. Richardson said that its success rate had at one point reached 95%, although he added that it was crass to speak about it in terms of a success as it meant that there were still 5% of cases that had not been cleared up. He said that the clear-up rate was, last year, just short of 85%.
- 40 In respect of how the black community viewed Trident, Supt. Richardson said that young people were aware of the operation through Trident's Community Engagement Team, which visited schools and, more recently, Youth Referral Units. He said that originally Trident had only investigated the shootings of black males by black males in relation to drug issues, while a similar operation, Trafalgar, investigated all non-Trident, non-fatal shootings in all other distinct communities across London and the targeting of illegal firearms suppliers, converters and illegal manufacturers. However, Trident now investigated all such shootings, of which 70% involved black perpetrators and victims.
- 41 Mr Andell said that it was noticeable that there had been an increase in shootings but fewer murders and he asked if there was a particular reason for that. In response, Supt. Richardson said that nationally it appeared that the tariff of forty years

imprisonment for clear intention to murder using a gun was working.

- 42 Additionally, he said it could in part be due to other reasons such as firearms and ammunition being taken off the street. For example, he said a case in point was that of Grant Wilkinson who was sentenced to life imprisonment for converting ninety Mac-10 machine guns believed to have been used in over 50 gun crimes, some of them in Lambeth. He said that sixty of the Mac-10s which had been recovered would not have been replaced on the streets.
- 43 In response to Rod Brown, Supt. Richardson said that Trident murders were difficult to manage because although police often knew from intelligence who had committed the murders, concrete evidence was needed to prove guilt and gain a conviction.
- 44 In respect of Witness Anonymity, Supt. Richardson said that some difficulties had arisen due to a convicted murderer, Ian Davis, successfully appealing the House of Lords against his sentence. However, as a result of emergency legislation, which needed to be annually reaffirmed, Supt. Richardson said that the Court of Appeal upheld the verdict of the original trial. Supt. Richardson added that the emergency legislation was due to be renewed and ought to receive Royal Assent.
- 45 While Witness Anonymity was not common to all trials, Supt. Richardson said that witnesses in the case of Nathan Foster, who was shot dead in Brixton in 2007, had been given the status and were allowed to give evidence from behind a screen. To ensure anonymity, he added that the police would, if necessary remove any evidence that could help to identify the witness.
- 46 In response to Ms Griffiths, Supt. Richardson said that Trident strived to achieve a high level of diversity in terms of its officers but that efforts were hampered by a relative new intake of black and Asian officers applying alongside experienced officers. **Nevertheless, he said that steps forward had been made and Denise Milani, MPS Director of Diversity and Citizen Focus Directorate, had been**

**invited to Trident Open Day to brief officers on recruitment. He said that he would provide a breakdown of officer ethnicity.**

- 47 In response to Gill Kenealy, Supt. Richardson said that he would look into whether historic murders could be solved with the help of Witness Anonymity, for which there was support from Magistrates' Courts.
- 48 Kelly ben Maimon said that she had the utmost respect for the Lewisham Murder Squad for its hard work in arresting and charging a suspect involved in the investigation of a recent double murder in Streatham.
- 49 The Chair said that she would expect IAG members involved in murder cases would not want their membership details to be too well known. However, Ms Sealey said that she would be happy to report back to the Group in relation to firearms incidents.

#### Any Other Business

- 50 In response to Richard Moore, who said that if other MPA Link Members could attend their consultative groups then Caroline Pidgeon, Lambeth's Link Member, should attend ours. The Chair said that she would write to Caroline Pidgeon to explain the Group's concern and invite her to attend. Mr Prichard-Jones said that he was disappointed with Ms Pidgeon's attitude towards the Group, adding that she was standing as a parliamentary candidate for Vauxhall.
- 51 **The Chair agreed to Lloyd Leon's request to put Independent Custody Visitors on the next agenda.**

#### Next Meeting

5 January 2010

Karibu Education Centre

**Gresham Road, Brixton SW9**