

**Karibu Education Centre, Brixton SW9**

**PRESENT: CPCG BOARD:** Sandra Moodie (Vice-Chair), Paul Andell (Vice-Chair), Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Shane Collins, Ros Munday (Clapham Community Partnership), Jim Toohill, Jane Warwick (Lambeth Women's Aid)

**COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP:** John Frankland (Herne Hill Forum); Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club); Brian Mantell (South London Synagogue), Nick Mason (Lambeth Summer Projects); Catriona Robertson (Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum), David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.); George Tuson (Streatham Southside NHWatch) Arulini Velmurugu Lambeth Road/Towers TRA), David Warner (Brixton Society), Kathy White

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:** Hope Barrett, Betty Evans-Jacas, Rosemarie Falaiye, Tia Henry-Lindo, David Prichard-Jones, Clare Moore, Richard Moore, Hilary-Claire Wears

**STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: MPA** Jude Sequeira  
**LAMBETH COUNCIL METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE**  
Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave, Insp. Malcolm Nichol, Inspector Tim Ruprecht (TSG); Sgt. Paul Bowen (TSG), PC John Jeffreys (Police Federation) **BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE**  
PC Curtis, PC Lee McAdam, PC Ben Noble

**PRESS:** Nadia Gilani (South London Press), Matt Watts (Streatham Guardian)

**VISITORS:** Kevin Fitzpatrick, David Michael, Linda Spashett, Clarence Thompson, Belinda Washington,

**APOLOGIES:** Ivelaw Bowman, Rod Brown, John Cheetham, Wally Channon, Ann Corbett, Richard Dutton, Neil Flanigan, Lena James, Gill Kenealy, Patricia Moberly, Caroline Pidgeon, Beryl Saunders, Fernando Senior Wesley Stephenson, Anna Tapsell, John Wainwright, Hazel Watson

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

**Introduction**

- 1 Sandra Moodie (Chair of the meeting) thanked those present for turning up despite the adverse weather and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**Minutes of the Meeting 1 December 2009**

- 2 Minutes of the Meeting 1 December 2009 were accepted with the following amendment:  
Add Betty Evans-Jacas to those present

**Matters Arising**

- 3 Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave said that the final version of a Problem Profile of Crimes Against Businesses would soon be published and he could not see any reason why it could not be made public or shown to the Group. In response to Richard Moore, Mr Ephgrave said that he had spoken with Steve Govier, Coordinator of Lambeth Businesses Against Crime regarding the Profile [Minute 6, 05/01/10].

- 4 In response to a member of the public, Mr Ephgrave said that most commercial robberies involved licensed premises, betting shops and late night groceries.
- 5 Jim Toohill said that the Group were seeking to invite CO19 to the next Group meeting on 2 February to give an interactive presentation on how firearms officers were trained [Minute 9, 05/01/10].
- 6 Mr Ephgrave said that Sergeant Ashok Patel of Thornton Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team had spoken with Hilary Wears regarding people at one particular address who had been causing a number of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) problems but had now since moved on [Minute 20, 05/01/10].
- 7 With regard to a replacement for Supt. Dave Musker, Mr Ephgrave said that a number of candidates had made Lambeth their preference and the selection process was still ongoing. He said that he was confident that he would be able to name Supt. Musker's successor at the next meeting [Minute 21, 05/01/10].
- 8 Mr Ephgrave said that the vast majority of people arrested were subject to DNA sampling and whether or not young black males were over-represented on the DNA database was not an issue of disproportional DNA sampling of those arrested, but of being arrested in the first place. Therefore, he said that any disproportionality in respect of young black males being arrested in the borough was another debate [Minute 22, 05/01/10].
- 9 In response, Lloyd Leon said he knew that the police were only doing their job but the issue was a political one which had been lost in the European Courts of Justice. Mr Leon said that it was wrong that many young black males, as well as others, should to some extent be criminalised by having their DNA taken and kept without being charged and convicted.
- 10 Mr Ephgrave said The Beat office being used as a base by Coldharbour SNT was never meant to be a 24 hour access building for members of the public, although it should advertise its opening times and any public meetings being held. In response to Mr Moore and David Tomlinson, Mr Ephgrave clarified that SNT bases should be approachable but were not mini-police stations where crime could be recorded. He

also said that he agreed with them that the purpose of SNT bases were as places for officers to operate from when they were not patrolling should to be made clearer [Minute 26, 05/01/10].

- 11 In response to David Prichard-Jones, Mr Toohill said that in Anna Tapsell's extended absence, it should have fallen to himself to write to Ms Pidgeon and he apologised that he had not. He said that he would now ensure that this was done. Mr Toohill pointed out that the Group had a new MPA Link Officer, Jude Sequeira, who had taken over from Susan Doran [Minute 50, 05/01/10].

### Lambeth Police Update

- 12 Ch. Supt. 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).
- 13 In response to Shane Collins, Mr Ephgrave said that far from the post of Lambeth LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender) officer being removed, a further two LGBT posts had been put in place, in addition to the position filled by PC Eren Bessim.
- 14 In response to Paul Andell, Mr Ephgrave said that the difference between theft, such as pickpocketing, and robbery, was that the latter was carried out with the use or threat of violence by someone with a physical presence.
- 15 Rosemarie Falaiye said that crime in Gipsy Hill appeared to have risen, which seemed to be confirmed by a greater visibility of police and Police Community Support Officers, as well as more sightings of a police helicopter. She said that people appeared to be more wary and always looking over their shoulder.
- 16 In reply, Mr Ephgrave said that the officers on the ground as well as the use of a police helicopter were due to the area being identified as one of certain problems. However, he said that while it was the police's aim to reassure people, he understood that their presence could also make some people more fearful.
- 17 Mr Leon said that he wished congratulate the police officer from Brixton for the way he had conducted himself in helping and reassuring passengers who had been stranded in a Eurostar train, which had been stuck in the Channel tunnel. Mr Ephgrave said that he would pass on Mr Lloyd's comment and added that his officer's conduct reflected all that he would have hoped from him and would expect as much from all the officers working on the borough.
- 18 Mr Moore said that he had attended the Borough Commander's awards ceremony at which officers had been recognised for some outstanding work. Mr Moore asked if the Group could have breakdown of ASB Orders given in the borough.
- 19 In response to Kelly ben Maimon, Mr Ephgrave said that police had come to Cllr. Julian Heather's aid following a scuffle after he had been approached by a drug dealer outside KFC in Brixton. He said that the problem with drug dealers was complicated by issues of displacement and attempts to prosecute them, due to the small amounts of drugs found on their person. He added that more recently the police were using passive dogs to locate drugs.
- 20 In response to comments from Shane Collins, regarding drugs policy generally, Jim Toohill pointed out that the May meeting of CPCG would be themed to deal with the Safer Lambeth Partnership's Strategic Priority addressing drug and alcohol misuse.
- 21 Clarence Thompson asked Mr Ephgrave if he could disseminate information to residents about how to avoid being burgled. In response, Mr Ephgrave said that most burglars did not plan their crimes but were opportunists who took advantage of, for example, windows and doors being left open.
- 22 Mr Tomlinson said much more work could be done against burglary by using neighbourhood watches to disseminate information. Jim Toohill suggested that the Group would be happy to disseminate to its mailing list any information regarding Neighbourhood Watches Mr Tomlinson had to hand.
- 23 Mr Toohill commented that in previous years the number of thefts was seen to fall during the winter but this year the trend had reversed and this crime had risen; **he asked if there was any analysis of why this might be.** With regard to the Satisfaction Survey,

he said he understood that similar issues were addressed in surveys by the local authority in respect of 'place'. **He suggested that it would be useful to triangulate between the surveys.**

### Lambeth Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs)

- 24 Jane Warwick, the current Chair of Lambeth ICVs, said that there were ICV schemes across the whole of London with each borough having its own ICV Panel. She said that the origins of ICVs began in 1981, following the disturbances in Brixton, which were largely attributed to the 'infamous' Stop and Search law known as "SUS", which permitted officers to Stop and Search, and arrest, anyone they chose by acting on their suspicion alone. She said that the use of the power caused huge resentment in the community, mostly amongst young black youths who were the majority of those targeted, and lead to widespread public disorder and violent conflict resulting in injuries to both members of the public and police as well as large scale destruction of property including businesses and cars.
- 25 Following this, Ms Warwick said members of the community met with senior police officers, Lambeth Councillors, Members of Parliament and the Home Office to find a way forward to improve community and police relations. As a result, Lord Scarman, a Lambeth resident, was tasked with writing a report. The Scarman Report made many recommendations including that the police should have more accountability to the public and that they should police by consent. She said that it was not long afterwards that Lambeth Community-Police Consultative Group was established, the first of its kind, with other London boroughs following suit. A Lay Visiting Scheme to the Lambeth Police Stations soon ensued.
- 26 Ms Warwick said that once ICVs, who were all volunteers, had received training and undergone police checks, they received a pass which allowed them to visit Lambeth police stations (Brixton, Kennington and Streatham) unannounced in pairs and were given immediate access the custody area. There, she said, ICVs should to speak with detainees in their cells, if they so wish, in sight of a police officer but out of the officer's hearing.
- 27 At the end of each visit, Ms Warwick said that a written report was made and any minor issues of concern could be discussed with the Duty Inspector with more significant issues brought up at ICV monthly panel meeting with a senior police officer. There, she said, the officer would respond to comments found in ICV reports and also answer any questions or issues raised. The scheme, she said, has long been successful and has proved beneficial for both detainees and police officers whilst also reassuring the community that people in police custody were receiving their rights.
- 28 Ms Warwick said that in 2000, the MPA took over the responsibility for policing in London, which included Lay Visitors who were given the new name of Independent Custody Visitors. In order to standardise every ICV panel in London, she that a standard format for visit report forms was created with tick boxes for the many issues that ICVs may come across.
- 29 In 2007, Ms Warwick said that ICV Panel administrators were either self-employed or seconded from local authorities. However, these local people had their jobs terminated by the MPA who replaced them with their own ICV Scheme coordinators at great cost. These co-coordinators with no prior knowledge of custody visiting were then charged with administering four or five ICV Panels in different boroughs throughout the MPS.
- 30 Ms Warwick said that the changes caused great consternation, not only because some panels had lost their administrators, who were familiar to the role and the boroughs in which they worked and lived, but also because the role of ICVs did not seem to be independent, under the auspices of the MPA. She said that independence was vital to ensure the trust of the community.
- 31 In spite of protests, she said that the MPA then disbanded its quarterly meetings with the London-wide Panel Chairs; meetings that had proved vital for the exchanging of information, good practice and problem sharing. She said that the result had been the resignation of some experienced ICV Chairs.
- 32 On 4 November 2009, Ms Warwick said that the MPA had called a meeting chaired by

- Catherine Crawford, MPA Chief Executive, of all Chairs and Vice-Chairs, where they were informed that as from 1 January 2010, all meetings of the Panels, now co-coordinated by the MPA employees, would only be held quarterly. She said that ICVs were told that this was necessary due to financial restraints and the scraping of three MPA co-coordinator posts.
- 33 Despite heated protests from those present, the MPA remained adamant that the changes would be implemented on the 1 January. Ms Warwick said that she argued the need for Lambeth, a very complex Borough, to continue to have monthly meetings with the ICV panel and the police to address any issues that had arisen from custody visits.. She said that she had argued that a quarterly meeting would destroy the cohesion of the panel, leave newly appointed ICVs without the support of experienced ICVs, and that anyone who could not attend one quarterly meeting would have to wait six months between meetings.
- 34 More importantly, she said that issues concerning detainees, some of whom were very vulnerable, such as those suffering from mental health issues, juveniles or detainees held on behalf of the immigration authorities, could, at worst, be legally held for up to seven days in cells designed to hold a person for several hours. In such instances, detainees had little if no opportunity for exercise, to smoke or, in the case of Streatham Police station, an occasion to shower. She added that the only facility for washing at Streatham, a sink in the corridor which was in full view of a CCTV camera and all who passed by, would not be addressed for some time. Yet, the MPA refused to acknowledge these issues and ICVs were told that the MPA decision stood.
- 35 Regardless of the MPA's opposition, Ms Warwick said that Lambeth ICVs and some other Panels would continue to hold monthly meetings without the MPA co-coordinator, which Mr Ephgrave had agreed to support and to which the police liaison officer would attend.
- 36 Doye Akinlade, former Chair of Lambeth ICVs, said that the Metropolitan Police Authority's (MPA) obligation under s.51 of the Police Reform Act 2002 was being eroded in its effectiveness due to changes having been made concerning the running of ICV Panels. Mr Akinlade said that ICV Panels were all now restricted to four meetings per year which could result in less monitoring of police stations and the rights of persons being detained. As a result, Mr Akinlade said that he had written to Val Shawcross at the Greater London Assembly and Keith Hill MP, and he proposed that Group should write to Kate Hoey MP.
- 37 Mr Akinlade also queried whether the change proposed would impact on the insurance cover for ICVs.
- 38 Since some people might not be aware of how ICVs had come about, Mr Leon said that in the early 1980s there existed a situation in Lambeth police stations concerning the treatment of people being held in custody; especially young black men, with allegations of dogs being used threateningly and heads put down flushing toilets.
- 39 Therefore, he said that he and others instigated the Lay Visitors Scheme to Lambeth Police Station, now the ICVs, which changed the whole ethos of policing, not just in Lambeth or the MPS but across the country. For example, he said that the Lay Visitors once wrote a report describing officers at Kennington Police Station as living on a different planet, which led to all the officers based there being transferred within a week.
- 40 Mr Leon said that over the years Lay Visitors had been responsible for numerous changes for the good e.g. advocating microwave ovens for officers to use so that they didn't have to back to their Section House to get food, which later led to police canteens. Other changes included giving detainees clothing and plimsols if their own clothes had been confiscated, instead of just a blanket, and ensuring that there were washing facilities.
- 41 Mr Leon said that in the early days, government ministers would attend Group meetings, which had led to changes in Stop and Search, such as not conducting strip searches in public and not removing items of clothing, e.g. a turban, which had religious significance.
- 42 Mr Leon said that ICVs were vital for community reassurance and that hampering them in doing their jobs as community

- volunteers would undermine their capacity to ensure that the rights of detainees were being upheld. He said that only recently he had been told by a woman, who had been held in custody over the cold Christmas period in a south London police station, that there was neither heating there and nor had she been offered a blanket.
- 43 Mr Leon that the MPA's tick-box method of recording custody suite shortcomings in ICV reports was not the way to uphold the rights of detainees and that written reports and meetings where questions could be raised and answered was the best way to reassure the community and improve community and police relations.
- 44 David Prichard-Jones said that he believed that he was speaking on behalf of all those present, when he said that there was grave concern about the MPA's decision to curtail the ICV scheme, as Lambeth suffered from inadequate custody facilities and a racially volatile situation. He said that it was regrettable that Lambeth's MPA Link Member, Caroline Pidgeon, had again chosen not to attend the meeting, as she might then have understood the depth of local feeling on this matter.
- 45 Mr Prichard-Jones invited the meeting to confirm that they felt similarly, and with general agreement he asked that Caroline Pidgeon be formally made aware of the Group's views on the matter and requested to attend at least one of the Group's meetings to hear its views on this issue and other matters, and answer questions.
- 46 Ros Munday asked if the matter could be raised at the next meeting of the Safer Lambeth Partnership while David Michael, Lewisham CPCG, said that as well as support from the SLP, the Group should seek backing from MPA Members.
- 47 Clarence Thompson said that the matter was one of basic human rights and that Lambeth had always been a fount for change with equal opportunities having been born in the borough. He added that the community and the police needed to work together and create a model of excellence.
- 48 Jim Fairweather said that Lambeth had always been first with innovative schemes such as the ICVs and that the Group needed to send out a clear message to the MPA that it could not accept the changes enforced upon Lambeth's ICV Panel.
- 49 Mr Toohill said it appeared that there was agreement that the MPA's actions, in determining how ICV Panels should operate, looked like a one-size plan which didn't fit all. He undertook to communicate this to the MPA. He suggested that the Group should do all it could to support Lambeth ICVs, and our local police, in ensuring that Lambeth's ICV scheme was as best suited to the borough's needs as possible. ***He offered to speak with Ms Warwick, outside the meeting, to establish what help the Group could offer.***
- 50 Jude Sequiera, MPA Link Officer, said that he would take back the community's discontent to the MPA. He pointed out the financial constraints operating within the MPA and the fact that there were now fewer ICV Coordinators, each covering more boroughs.
- 51 Mr Sequiera said that the MPA's policy did not preclude borough ICV's meeting monthly, if that was the wish of the volunteers themselves. Likewise, the decision over police attendance at such 'informal' meetings was a local decision. He said that the ICV Scheme, and their independence, were not threatened, and that its strength lay with its volunteers and not in clerking.
- 52 Richard Moore said that he felt that Mr Sequiera was defending a political decision and that as such he should not be the role of an Officer. He felt this pointed to the need for an MPA Member presence, and response, at the meeting,.

### **Any Other Business**

- 53 Shane Collins said that he objected to Assistant Commissioner Cressida Dick having been awarded the Queen's Police Medal for distinguished service in light of her role of overseeing the police operation which ended in the death of Jean Charles de Menezes.

### **Next Meeting**

**6.00 p.m. Tuesday, 2 February 2010**

**Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall**