

Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton

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

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP: Jim Fairweather (WIESA), Stuart Horwood (Brixton Market TA); Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club); Anna Long (Churches Together in Clapham); Brian Mantell (South London Synagogue), David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.); Peggy Tyler (Clapham Town NW); Arulini Velmurugu Lambeth Road/Towers TRA)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Hope Barrett, Richard Dutton, Betty Evans-Jacas, Rosemarie Falaiye, Gloria Gomez, Tia Henry-Lindo, John Howard, Veronica Ledwith, David Prichard-Jones, Patricia Moberly, Richard Moore, Cheryl Sealey, Fernando Senior

STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP: *MPA* Jude Sequeira
LAMBETH COUNCIL Cllr. Kingsley Abrams, Cllr. Rachel Heywood, George Marshman, Ann Corbett
METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave, Det. Supt. Dave Palmer, Insp. Malcolm Nichol, Sgt. Jason Goom (TSG), PC John Jeffrey (Police Federation), Gemma Charge (Analyst)

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

VISITORS:, Marguerita Alexander, Kelly ben Maimon, Isabel Charles-Mann Pedroso, John Cheetham, Julia Cordero, Antonio Cunha, Susan Deswarte, Ros Griffiths, Myriam Hay, P. Johnson, Abigail Jones, Elaine Lilley, Hannah Mir, Jackie Plumridge, Keith Shaw

APOLOGIES: Ervell Bailey, Ivelaw Bowman, Rod Brown, Wally Channon, Shane Collins, Maude Estwick, Rowena Estwick, Neil Flanigan, Graham Nicholls, Caroline Pidgeon, Beryl Saunders, George Tuson, Hazel Watson, Hilary-Claire Wears

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

Introduction

- 1 Anna Tapsell (the Chair) said that she had been sad to hear of the death of Greta Brookes at the age of 92 on 26 December. Being one of the founder members, she said that Greta had a long association with the Group and was a member of the Group's Board up to two years ago.
- 2 Jane Warwick said that Greta was a powerhouse of a woman who gave a great deal of service to the community and had been instrumental in establishing the Lay Visitors to Lambeth Police Stations, now called the Independent Custody Visitors, and the Group, for which the community was indebted to her. She said that Greta had had a long and happy marriage to her husband Victor, another stalwart of the Group, who had passed away four years ago.
- 3 Lloyd Leon said it was said it was a very sad moment for him having to speak about Greta whom he had known for many years. Mr Leon said that he recalled making numerous visits

to the Home Office, Hendon Training Centre and Lambeth Police Stations as she started to improve community and police relations in Lambeth following the 1981 disturbances. He said that Greta was also credited with founding Lambeth Mediation Service and that the contribution she had made, alongside Victor, was immeasurable and benefitted not only the people of Lambeth but throughout the country.

- 4 Mr Leon said that being at the forefront of Lay Visiting, alongside Elena Cura, Greta made sure of many improvements to conditions for those held in police custody, as well as for police officers. The Group held a one minute silence in Greta's memory.
- 5 The Chair said that the Group had planned to have a firearms presentation from CO19. However, she said after further talks with Ch. Insp. Rob Atkin it was agreed that the interactive presentation would not be suitable for a large public meeting, since people would need to be informed beforehand of its content and that it would only, interactively, involve a small group of people whilst excluding anyone under 15 years of age. Furthermore, she said that the officers giving the presentation would not engage in any discussion about armed policing, which was wanted to pursue following the Group meeting in November.
- 6 The Chair invited anyone who wanted to take part in the interactive firearms presentation to leave their names and contact details at the signing-in table and the Group would facilitate a meeting.
- 7 Richard Moore said that he accepted the reasons for cancelling the presentation but that there were a further two different presentations under the Prevent agenda to stop very young people becoming involved in firearms, to which he asked the Group to give some consideration.
- 8 The Chair said that it was important for the Group to have regular updates from CO19 as it did from TSG and therefore she would seek to have both command units present at Group meetings at least once every two months.
- 9 Arulini Velmurugu said that she felt it was important to understand why the police had to shoot people and how they made their decisions, particularly as some people used imitation firearms.

10 Jim Toohill referred those present to the Briefing Paper which had been tabled. Mr Toohill particularly highlighted the fact that the Group **meetings on 13 April and 11 May** were to be **held on the second Tuesday** of the month due to the Easter Holiday and to provide a four week space between those two meetings.

Minutes of the Meeting 5 January 2010

11 Minutes of the Meeting 5 January 2010 were accepted without amendment:

Matters Arising

12 Ch. Supt. Nick Ephgrave said that he was pleased to announce a successor for Supt. Dave Musker. He said that a Supt. Andy Howe, a very experienced and committed officer would take up his post and join the borough on 1 March. [Minute 7, 05/01/10].

13 David Tomlinson said that he had been in contact with Lambeth police's Neighbourhood Watch officer, PC Karen Hunn, who had a lot of useful information and had been talking to Safer Neighbourhood Panels and encouraging Tenants & Residents Associations and Tenant Management Organisations to join up. Mr Tomlinson suggested that the Group could append the officers material to Group minutes for information [Minute 22, 05/01/10].

14 In response to Richard Dutton, Mr Ephgrave said that the rise in the number of thefts during the year was due to two periods, May to July and November 2009, when there was an increase in pickpocketing offences at music venues in the borough. From intelligence sources and research, he said that police had discovered organised teams of pickpocketers targetting crowds attending the venues. He said that the police were aware of the offender profile, their modus operandi and how they disposed of the stolen property, and tactics to deal with them had been set in place [Minute 23, 05/01/10].

15 Ms Warwick thanked Mr Ephgrave for providing a police inspector to join the ICV meeting on 28 January, which was successful. She said that the ICVs would continue to meet on a monthly basis without the MPA having a presence [Minute 35, 05/01/10].

16 David Prichard-Jones said that he could not understand why Caroline Pidgeon, [MPA Link Member] had not attended a Group meeting in eighteen months, which showed that she had very little interest in Lambeth's issues and this was an insult to police officers in Lambeth. He said that if she failed to attend a future meeting he hoped that she would decide to move from her Link Member role or be removed from it., which he would propose at the next Business meeting [Minute 44, 05/01/10].

17 The Chair said that she had written to Ms Pidgeon, when she was appointed as Lambeth Link Member, who had replied saying that she may attend Group meetings from time to time, although she hadn't done so far. The Chair said that she had recently written to Ms Pidgeon again about her non-attendance, the important issues concerning the ICVs and other matters of concern to the Group over the past year, and awaited her reply.

Lambeth Police Update

18 Ch. Supt. Ephgrave gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lambeth Crime Overview comparing the current and previous 'year to date' (26 January 2010), the Confidence and Satisfaction Survey, and the Policing Pledge (see attached).

19 Mr Ephgrave said that after a lot of work police had identified, arrested and charged a suspected sex offender responsible for four offences on the borough.

20 With regard to the Policing Pledge, Mr Ephgrave said that Lambeth was recognised as a good borough in terms of fulfilling Pledge commitments and wished to thank his SNTs and SNP Chairs and members for their help in improving police performance. However, he said that he wanted to comment on the number of people who were aware of their SNPs/SNTs Ward Priorities, which was currently 29%.

21 *In response to a member of the public, Mr Ephgrave said that the sample size for the Public Attitude Survey, which was undertaken every three months, was 160 people chosen at random across the borough. With regard to the User Satisfaction Survey, he said that he was*

not certain of the methodology used but he would look into it.

- 22 In response to a member of the public's question about diversity monitoring of survey respondents, Mr Ephgrave said that a dip sample of the victimisation rates of disabled people in the community, for example, had found that in terms of Domestic Violence they had a lower victimisation rate than the Lambeth community as a whole. However, he said that such sampling was not done routinely at local level, but largely undertaken centrally.
- 23 ***The Chair said that it would be useful at some point in the forthcoming months for the Group to look at issues of disability in Satisfaction Surveys and the number of people responding. Mr Ephgrave said that he would make enquiries about the matter although he said some disabled people did not wish to disclose such information.***
- 24 Gill Kenealy said that she was pleased about the fall in youth crime, and although the matter of young people involved with firearms appeared to have declined she did not believe that it had gone away.
- 25 In response, Mr Ephgrave said that he had not meant to give the impression that young people and firearms was no longer an issue, but to make the point that firearms seemed to be more prevalent in relation to commercial robbery than being gang related, although though those committing the robberies could be young people.
- 26 In response to John Wainwright's comments concerning an article in Prospect magazine about how police were dealing with gang issues in Glasgow, Mr Ephgrave said that he was aware of a senior officer from Strathclyde police working with the MPS on gang related matters and was sharing good practice. Furthermore, he said that he had been looking at a US model for dealing with gangs through mediation between protagonists before rivalries and disagreements turned into firearms incidents.
- 27 Mr Andell said that instead of using external ideas for intervention and mediation, Lambeth should be looking to its own home grown way of dealing with disputes. He added that the Group had done some work in the field of mediation which had had support of the previous Borough Commander but had since stalled.
- 28 In response to Mr Wainwright's view that adults did not understand youth culture very well, and that that young people were under-protected whilst also lacking confidence in the police, Mr Ephgrave said that a proportion of robberies were committed by youths on youths and may appear to be innocuous. In that sense, he said they could be tricky to deal with and the police sought to reduce incidents by an increase presence outside schools.
- 29 A member of the Iberoamerican community said that one in five children in Lambeth was from a Spanish or Portuguese background but this was not recognised in any way. As such, and without any classification, the extent to which the Iberoamerican community were victims of burglary, racism, DV and other crimes was not known. He said that his community needed to be classified as a minority ethnic group.
- 30 In response to Fernando Senior's question about the number of BME officers in Lambeth, Mr Ephgrave said that for Lambeth police to proportionally represent the community half of his officers would have to BMEs, which was clearly not the case. However, he said that the recruitment of BME PCSOs was a useful first step to gaining entry into the MPS and many PCSOs went on to become police officers.
- 31 Mr Ephgrave said that he had set up a forum for his officers who met monthly to look at the issues for officers and staff of BME backgrounds. Furthermore, he said that he co-chaired a Diversity and Equalities Board with Supt. Paul Wilson which also looked at other issues such as faith and sexuality.
- 32 ***The Chair said that the Group would like to see some hard information in respect of Lambeth police's diversity which could be reviewed from time to time.***
- 33 In response to Mr Dutton, Mr Ephgrave said that the police did have a categorisation system for police response time: 12 minutes for emergencies, with an average Lambeth time of 9.5 minutes; S (for Soon) calls which could take up to an hour when the presence of police was not required 'there and then'; and appointments, which applied to the majority of calls, that could be arranged over longer periods of time, such as a week.

- 34 In relation to drug supply sanctioned detections, Mr Andell queried whether there had been a drop in drug dealing. In response, Mr Ephgrave said that drug supply was a 'Regina' crime, which meant that there was no direct victim [to report it]. Therefore, he said that detection rates rose when drug operations took place.
- 35 With an increase in detections of serious gun and knife crime, Stuart Horwood said he would like to be confident of an increase in prosecutions in months to come. In response, Mr Ephgrave said that many serious offences involving guns and knives were dealt with by the Flying Squad, which was traditionally successful in making arrests and would be represented at the April meeting.
- 36 In response to Myriam Hay, Iberoamerican Forum, Mr Ephgrave said that there were specific officers, with a good detection record, whose sole responsibility was to investigate all categories of Hate Crime. However, Mr Ephgrave said that there was always room for improvement and he would look into the possibility of someone to take on the role of Iberoamerican liaison officer.
- 37 Mr Tomlinson said that SNPs now received an informative, monthly police report for each Ward and that feedback about them from the distribution list was highly complimentary. Mr Tomlinson recommended people to put their names down on their Ward's list. He also commented on Community Safe, which had sent its first action message out on the day of the Group meeting.
- 38 However, Mr Tomlinson said that there some communication issues with regard to SNP/SNT priorities not being transmitted to other parts of Lambeth police who were working to different sets of priorities. He said that when police came into a Ward they should have an understanding of its SNP priorities and the attention to them should be given due weight.
- 39 Mr Ephgrave said that in understanding the issue of having twenty-one Wards, each with its own top three priorities alongside the borough-wide policing priorities, he had ordered each of Lambeth's three control rooms to have an up-to-date laminated list of all Lambeth Ward's SNP priorities.
- 40 Mr Moore said that the south of the borough was looking at having its own Ward based communication system using the SNP communication budget. He also asked if time could be allocated at a Group meeting to have a presentation on the Community Safe messaging system.
- 41 In response to Kelly ben Maimon, Mr Ephgrave said that he and Derrick Anderson (LBL Ch. Exec.) were co-Chairs of the SLP, Lambeth's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. He said that the SLP Board looked at the overarching issues that affected Lambeth in terms of community safety and well-being, and was responsible for making arrangements to try to improve performance in key areas.
- 42 Mr Ephgrave said that the Strategic Plan was based on the borough's Strategic Assessment; a document that set out the key issues with the SLP agreeing upon five key areas, each of which had associated action groups. Ann Corbett, Asst. Dir. of Community Safety said that all the SLP's papers could be found on the Council's website and that all the funding streams were published in the Strategic Plan and would be publicly available.
- 43 Mr Howard said that the more serious aspects of crime in the borough had increased, which raised the question that either resources were being diverted in order to meet government targets or the police had lost the fight where murder, gun and knife crime were concerned.
- 44 Mr Howard said that he was also concerned about the Confidence and Satisfaction Survey, since not one such survey published over the past ten years showed the majority of public opinion in favour of the police. He said that he felt assured in saying that confidence in the police was less than 50% and that the massaging of figures did not chime with public opinion. He added that the last survey brought to the Group by former Borough Commander, Sharon Rowe, had used data gathered from people who had not had any contact with the police whatsoever over a period of a year.
- 45 Mr Ephgrave said that he was proud of his reputation as an officer of integrity and that he had absolutely no interest in massaging figures, which people could choose to believe or not.
- 46 The Chair said that the Council also undertook surveys which may be worth looking at and improved upon in terms of being

representative of the borough's population by taking on board the views of residents living on estates.

- 47 Fernando Senior said that the crime which occurred on estates could lead one to believe that there were people living in a parallel universe whose reality was not same as that portrayed by surveys.
- 48 ***Ms Corbett said that the Council undertook three quite prescriptive surveys, one of which was a bi-annual analysis of 3,000 people seeking views about their confidence in the Council and police in dealing with crime on estates. Ms Corbett suggested inviting someone from the Council's Corporate Consultation Team to explain the surveys more fully.***
- 49 Mr Toohill said that it would be useful to gain an understanding of what all the different surveys had found, why they were made and how they differed. With regard to the police statistics, he said that there had been times in the past when police officers had, in good faith, brought figures supplied to them which later proved to be incorrect, as had happened in the past around Stop and Search.
- 50 ***Mr Toohill asked Mr Ephgrave if he could share his reflections on Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's report into Lambeth custody areas, and the extent to which he was confident that there were now controls in place to ensure that it would not take inspections to bring to light long standing failings.***

Lambeth Police Business Crime Strategy

- 51 Det. Supt. Dave Palmer and Gemma Charge (Analyst) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lambeth Police Business Crime Strategy (see attached).
- 52 The Chair said that about a year ago she had attended a police raid on a betting shop in Brixton where she found the staff to be very frightened and threatened by the gang members who used the premises as a kind of haven. She said that it caused her to think about the responsibilities of employers towards their staff.
- 53 Mr Prichard-Jones said that he would have liked to have seen some comparative figures from other boroughs, such as Southwark or

Camden, in order see where Lambeth stood in relation and to gauge the seriousness of the problem in the borough.

- 54 In response, Det. Supt. Palmer said that the presentation was not an intelligence report regularly produced by the MPS but had been put together specifically for the Group meeting [following requests at previous meetings for a business crime profile for Lambeth].
- 55 Mr Moore said that the figure of 87 offences for shoplifting in Brixton could only have been for one premises and that retail chains were pulling out of Lambeth due to the high cost of crime to them. This in turn, he said, left shops empty which gave a bad impression. All in all, he said that the cost of business crime to the community was enormous. However, while some good work was taking place, Mr Moore said that he was not convinced that information sharing was as good as had been presented and that the Partnership was as strong as it could be e.g. the Council was reluctant to report criminal damage.
- 56 Mr Moore asked when the Safer Socialising scheme would be revitalised. He said that the scheme, which had been co-funded by the Council and Lambeth Businesses Against Crime to keep customers and staff in licensed premises safe, had won a national award.
- 57 In response to Stuart Horwood, Det. Supt. Palmer said that the success of businesses in the borough was very important to the whole community in generating employment and opportunity, and therefore an important part of policing arrangements that needed to kept high on the agenda.
- 58 Det. Supt. Palmer said that people across London and beyond had a perception issue with regard to Brixton, seeing it to some extent as a crime-ridden area. He said that police did their best to reduce crime in Brixton, and Lambeth more generally, but changing the public's perception was much more demanding in the context of an historical fear factor which lags reality.
- 59 Det. Supt. Palmer said that he had not had any dealings with insurance companies, although he suspected they would base their policies on data available to them in relation to insurance claims made and crime recorded in a particular area, which affected premiums.

- 60 Ms Corbett said that a recent report by the British Retail Crime Consortium had highlighted business crime as a national problem and its relation to the economic recession. She said that the Council was discussing how to move forward and best use the resources available. With regards to Brixton, she said that there was quite a lot of activity taking place in Windrush Square and that she would invite the Director of Brixton Town Centre to a meeting if the Group wished.
- 61 ***Gloria Gomez said that one of the main problems for Clapham has been the proliferation of licensed premises which had been the cause for crime and anti-social behaviour as well as not being fair to existing businesses. George Marshman said that he would raise the issue with Planning and Licensing and ask them to provide a written report.***
- 62 Ros Munday said that when she was Chair of the Clapham Town Centre Board they had reached an agreement with a previous Council administration that licences would only be issued to premises in Clapham when another licence expired. However, she said that this had changed and Clapham was saturated with licences, which were also being given to premises in residential areas.
- 63 Rosemarie Falaiye said that she would like to see Gipsy Hill included in the Business Crime Strategy as there were increasingly more incidents of armed robberies and other serious crimes being committed in the area. She said that there was life beyond the cemetery gates of West Norwood.
- 64 In response to Mr Leon, Det. Supt. Palmer said that the police did engage with the various communities, such as those working in Brixton Market. He said that there were officers with language skills and community groups were approached to access the diversity of traders in the market. However, he said that he was not able state how far advanced and integrated that engagement was.
- 65 Sgt. Jason Goom said that TSG 5, which operated out of Larkhall Lane, had only just returned to working in Lambeth, after having spent six months operating in other parts of London.
- 66 Sgt. Goom said that TSG was trying to raise its profile by becoming involved with community initiatives such as Lambeth Summer Projects. TSG also wanted to change the way it did presentations to the Group, youth groups and others to ensure that the correct message was put across and they were getting the best out of the interaction. Furthermore, TSG were seeking to have TSG officer aligned to each Lambeth Ward.
- 67 Sgt. Goom said that each year TSG undertook to provide breaks for 60 children, 13 years and over, from across London by taking them to Breacon Beacons in Wales. However, He said that as far as he was aware none of the young people last year had come from Lambeth.
- 68 Ms Warwick thanked TSG for the opportunity for Mr Andell, Wesley Stephenson and herself to experience going on patrol with them one evening. Sgt. Goom said that the offer was open to anyone else who would like to do the same.

MPA Link Officer

- 69 Jude Sequiera reported the following: Mayor Boris Johnson had stood down as Chair of the MPA and Deputy Mayor Kit Malthouse had been nominated to take his place; the Domestic and Sexual Violence Board had published its Annual Report; there had been a delay in the publication of the Race and Faith Enquiry Report; some boroughs were asking for more police officers bringing into question the Resource Allocation Formula; as a result of European rulings on s.44 and s.60, MPA members have been asked to review the effectiveness of Blunt II; MPA had received Lambeth CPCG's bid for funding.
- 70 Mr Sequiera apologised to Ms Warwick if had he been misunderstood at the last meeting about deaths in custody, which he regarded as a serious issue.

Territorial Support Group (TSG)

- 65 Sgt. Jason Goom said that TSG 5, which operated out of Larkhall Lane, had only just returned to working in Lambeth, after having

Next Meeting

**6.00 p.m. Tuesday, 3 March 2010
Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall**