

## Lambeth Town Hall

Note: These minutes are synoptic and endeavor to capture information given and commitments made, particularly in respect of the formal business of the AGM. For economy, minutes are clustered by topic and may not be strictly chronological. For full account of discussion and debating points please refer to recording.

Recording of this meeting at: [www.downloads.lambethcpcg.org.uk/recordings/CPCG AGM 2014.mp3](http://www.downloads.lambethcpcg.org.uk/recordings/CPCG%20AGM%202014.mp3)

### Apologies

- 1 Apologies were received from Dr Brian Mantell,

### Minutes of the 2012 AGM

- 2 The minutes of the 2012 AGM meeting were accepted without amendment.

### Matters Arising

- 3 There were no matters arising.

### Annual Report

- 4 Wesley Walters-Stephenson (Chair) introduced the Annual Report, setting the experiences of the year within the context of the longer history of the CPCG. He reflected on the changes which his own involvement with the which Group had brought his awareness of the borough and the issues within it. He acknowledged the efforts and achievements of former members, honorary officers and staff of the group. There were several contributions from the floor in the same vein *[for which it is well worth referring to the recording]*.
- 5 There was a question from the floor regarding the Independent Custody Visitors' (ICVs) report, contained within the CPCG report, specifically asking whether there had been any improvement in the management of the ICV scheme by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. The Chair of the ICVs (Jane Warwick MBE) responded that if anything, matters were deteriorating further. Support offered to the borough ICV groups was being reduced, with fewer coordinators servicing London's 32 boroughs and restrictions to the number of times each year ICV borough groups could meet with their local police.
- 6 Nicholas Long (former CPCG Chair) pointed out the regimen under which the custody visiting scheme operates in fact constitutes part of United Nations protocols to which the United Kingdom is a signatory.
- 7 The meeting agreed to receive the Annual Report.

### Annual Accounts

- 8 Jim Toohill (Honorary Comptroller) explained that the annual accounts being presented were those for 2012/13 (financial year 2013/14 having not yet ended). He pointed out that these accounts had been circulated to members prior to filing at Companies House (in December 2013) whilst the figures they contained had been presented to an EGM in April 2013. They were now being laid before the AGM as required by the Memorandum and Articles.
- 9 Richard Moore asked if, during the year, any applications had been made to funding sources other than MOPAC. Jim Toohill said there had been one such and it had been unsuccessful. At the suggestion of David Prichard-Jones, supported by Adrian King, the meeting agreed that seeks alternative sources of funds should be a priority for the new Board.
- 10 The meeting agreed to receive the Annual Accounts.

## **Lambeth Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) Development and CPCG's Future**

- 11 Jim Toohill gave a brief update on progress with development of the Lambeth Safer Neighbourhood Board. Key points were
- 12 A working group had been formed before Christmas 2013, co-chaired by the borough commander and LBL's cabinet member for community safety and comprising representatives of CPCG, the Safer Neighbourhood Panel (SNP) Chairs, the Neighbourhood Watch Association and the Independent Advisory Group (IAG). The object was to develop options for the structure and function of a Safer Neighbourhood Board for Lambeth, within the parameters set out by MOPAC.
- 13 The working group contained very divergent views on these matters, specifically between CPCG and the SNP chairs. A consultation document had been drafted by council officers, attempting to span this divergence, which would be issued shortly.
- 14 Jim Toohill said that CPCG was disappointed that the consultation was to be a summary affair and not the extensive community network building activity which had been included in CPCG's workplan for the year. This workplan had been signed off by the local borough commander and LBL's Assistant Director (Community Safety).
- 15 He said that nonetheless, CPCG would work with others to try and ensure that an SNB emerged which was consistent with the principles which CPCG members had agreed.
- 16 Cllr Jack Hopkins (Cabinet Member for Community Safety), co-chair of the working group, said there had indeed been considerable disagreement. Whilst the consultation would not itself be extensive, he himself met with a large variety of community groups as part of his role. The SNB would have the function of bringing this diversity of groups together; no-one had a monopoly on representation.
- 17 He didn't see the emergence of the SNB as meaning the end of CPCG. The work of its sub-groups for example was hugely valuable. He cited the possibility of working as 'community researchers' with opportunities to bid into the London wide Safer Neighbourhood Board funding pot.
- 18 He urged collaboration and pointed to the reassurance he had given members of the Youth Council. They were diffident about how they could work with organisations across the borough when they didn't even know who these organisations were. He had pointed out that the SNB would have others – members of CPCG, the chairs of SNPs, councilors like himself – who would help them navigate the SNB.
- 19 Asked for his vision for the SNB, Wesley Walters-Stephenson said that we could not be proscriptive and needed to recognise that not everyone could do everything. This had been acknowledged in his discussions with David Tomlinson (Single Point of Contact for the SNP Chairs group).
- 20 Fernando Senior queried whether the Group needed to change its form from a limited company to a charity. Marlene Ellis argued that this was not the issue, but that CPCG needed to retain a home and most importantly its independence. It should not stand aside from the SNB but should seek to be involved if possible. But it was vital to provide ordinary people with the means to challenge the police.
- 21 Both Fernando Senior and Nicholas Long pointed to the risks of abandoning a forum where members of the community could face the police in a supportive forum. Nicholas Long said that it was only necessary to read the Scarman report to understand the consequences of a breakdown in that relationship and its consequences.
- 22 Sandra Moodie argued that there was a need for better integration of the roles of CPCG, SNPs and the Neighbourhood Watches. The latter two, she said, tended to focus on police performance but not on how the police treated local people. There had to be a platform for this even if it was sometimes heated. Cllr Hopkins agreed – issues such as Stop and Search were rarely raised at SNPs and they should be. CPCG should be going out the SNPs and vice versa; the SNB would encourage that.

- 23 Richard Moore, as a chair of an SNP, pointed out that SNPs were police organisations and their operation was not wholly in the control of their chairs. He recounted that, for example, in the event of a critical incident, SNP chairs and members were excluded from involvement being supplanted by the Independent Advisory Group. This he described as a secretive and inaccessible body whose establishment CPCG had opposed.
- 24 Wesley Walters-Stephenson (Chair) said that the matter of the SNB would not be settled that evening but that we should go forward into the consultation period recognizing the need for give and take to achieve an effective body for Lambeth.

### **Motions**

- 25 There had been no motions submitted before the meeting.

### **Board Elections**

- 26 It was explained that at the previous AGM the entire Board had stood down (with some standing for re-election). Given that Board members have a two year term, there would be no need for any elections in 2014. In order to ensure that elections would occur, all of the current Board (with the exception of Hannah Mir) had to stand down (with some re-standing) to facilitate elections. It was noted that Anna Tapsell and Jane Warwick would not be re-standing and they were both thanked for their service over many years.
- 27 There were only two candidates for election in the Community and Voluntary Organisations electoral college (Arulini Vermurugu and Lloyd Leon MBE) and so with five Board places for that college, they were considered elected unopposed.
- 28 There were five available Board places in the Individual Members electoral college (the sixth being occupied by the Board member who wasn't standing down) and there were six candidates.
- 29 Ballots were cast by Individual Members with Nicholas Long kindly acting as Returning Officer.
- 30 He reported that the following had been elected: Canon Ivelaw Bowman, David Prichard-Jones, Jim Toohill, Wesley Stephenson whilst there had been a tie between Adrian King and Marlene Ellis. After discussion between the two candidates and Nicholas Long, Marlene Ellis generously stood aside and Adrian King was elected.
- 31 The new Board therefore comprised:
- 31.1 Individual Membership: Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Adrian King, Hannah Mir, David Prichard-Jones, Jim Toohill, Wesley Stephenson
- 31.2 Community and Voluntary Organisations: Lloyd Leon MBE (Brixton Domino Club), Arulini Velmurugu (Lambeth Towers and Lambeth Road TRA).

### **DM John**

- 32 The meeting ended with a presentation to DM John, CPCG's Engagement Executive, to mark her leaving CPCG at the end of the month. Jim Toohill thanked DM for her work describing her as a kind and considerate person who got on with her work efficiently without fuss. Jane Warwick MBE praised DM's commitment in difficult circumstances whilst Lloyd Leon MBE thanked her for her dedication and wished her well in her future career. The meeting enthusiastically supported these sentiments.