

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
For LAMBETH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
7 SEPTEMBER 2004**

PRESENT: GROUP OFFICERS Lee Jasper **Chairperson**; Paul Andell, Wesley Walters-Stephenson **Vice-Chairperson**; Jim Toohill **Hon. Comptroller** AFFILIATED MEMBERS Nick Abengowe **Herne Hill Forum**; Doye Akinlade **Brixton Society**; Pauline Bower **Churches Together in Clapham**; David Corderoy **Chamber of Commerce**; Gary Dando **Cressingham Gardens N'Hood Watch and Residents Assoc**; Sheila Draper **St Matthew's Est. TA**; Robert Holden **Friends of Brockwell Park**; Paul Reynolds **Herne Hill Society**; George Tuson **Streatham S'side N'hood Watch Assoc**; Arulini Velmurugu **Lambeth Towers & Lambeth Road Residents Assoc.**; Hector Watson **West Indian Ex-Servicemen's Assoc.**; Kathy White **Tulse Hill TA** INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS Lena James; Richard Moore; Fernando Senior; Ann Savage; Cheryl Sealey PERMANENT MEMBERS Lloyd Leon **ICV Lambeth**; Joanna Woodd **Victim Support Lambeth**; Most Rev. Dr Bancroft McCarthy **HM Prison Brixton (Board of Visitors)** SECTOR WORKING GROUPS George Tuson **Streatham Southern**; John Wainwright **Clapham**; Judy Chew, Rosa Wright **Kennington** LAMBETH COUNCIL Cllr. Robert S. McConnell; Cllr. Clive Bennett; Cllr. John Whelan METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE Supt. Stewart Low (Vauxhall); Supt. Rick Algar (Streatham); Supt. David Zinzan (Brixton); Supt. Kay. Insp. Jon Kirkpatrick, PC John Jeffreys BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE Ch. Insp. Randolph Otter SECRETARIAT Ben McKendrick

APOLOGIES: Rev. Ivelaw Bowman, Greta Brooks, Victor Brooks, Wally Channon, Neil Flanigan, Marie Hannelley, Bushy Kelly, Brian Mantell, Cllr. Angie Meader, Borough Commander Richard Quinn, Cllr. Lydia Serwaa, John Roberts MPA, Jonathan Toy, Peggy Tyler

2. LAMBETH POLICE

Supt. Stewart Low tabled a month by month, year by year statistical report of crime in Lambeth, complemented by a PowerPoint presentation.

The data revealed a 9% reduction in the total of Notifiable Offences, i.e. 4796 crimes - including burglary, robbery and motor vehicle crime - in Lambeth over the past twelve months.

Detections for domestic violence had greatly increased since April 2004 due to changes to reporting/recording of incidents and knowledge of assailants' identities.

A significant impact on gun crime in Lambeth had recently been occurring in Lambeth due to police initiatives with neighbouring boroughs involving Trident. Four firearms and three replica guns were seized in July 2004.

Seven murders had occurred in Lambeth since 1 January 2004, the latest reported incident having occurred on 12 June.

The number of "crack houses" closed during the past year was steadily declining, which Supt Low suggested was due the quick response of the police. He also acknowledged that stairwells and parks were a problem associated with drug dealing/drug abuse and police were working hard to tackle the issues with a degree of success. However, Supt. Low emphasised that policing alone could not resolve all the drug issues and other measures were required such as designing-out crime and linking with partnership agencies.

The following responses were made to questions and observations from the floor¹

The police were very keen to encourage the reporting of crime by setting up and increasing third party reporting sites and seeking other means for groups such as the gay community to report crime. It was also possible to report crime via the internet (to Richard Moore).

In relation to a breakdown of racist offences, police would provide these for circulation at the Group meeting in November as part of a presentation on Hate Crime in the Borough (to Kelly ben Maimon)

¹ Responses were made by Supt Low unless otherwise indicated.

Police were not driven by targets in respect of closing down premises used for the supply and consumption of drugs but acted upon intelligence and information received. (to Richard Moore)

Firearms operations did not always result in the recovery of guns, but may have been authorised by a superintendent following a risk assessment. (to John Howard)

In relation to grounds for stop and search indicated in the police report, the Stop and Search Monitoring Group would provide further information at the Group's October meeting. (to John Howard)

The police continued to be duty bound to hold immigration detainees at Lambeth police stations. (to Pauline Bower)

In relation to discussion about drug dealing hotspots, which Supt. David Zinzan informed had led to the "Red Card" scheme in central Brixton, Paul Andell proposed that a progressive way forward to reduce the harm caused by drug markets required a multi-modal solution, which included crime prevention, treatment referrals, situational prevention and community development as well as law enforcement. In this respect Supt. Low referred to Operation Refresh as a good example of a multi-agency approach to crime.

Supt. Low requested further information regarding an elderly person who had allegedly waited two days for the police to respond to a call, which he asserted would be unacceptable. (to Lloyd Leon)

Supt. Low explained that in respect of anti-social behaviour, the police working with the Council sought to use

Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts (ASBCs) before enacting Anti-Social Behaviour Orders ASBOs). Recently, two individuals who defied ASBOs and continued to deal drugs in Landor Road had been arrested and held in custody.

Supt. Zinzan added that following consultation with residents and business in February, police had used authority allowed under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act to disperse people from designated areas in central Brixton. Following a review of the initiative's success over a six month period, the powers could be used again.

Similarly, Supt. Rick Algar reported on consultation with members of the community in a small area of West Norwood who were living in fear of a small number of individuals and were monitoring the situation. (to Jim Toohill)

Supt. Zinzan said, however, that while trying to find a balance between what could be considered anti-social, such as drinking alcohol in a public place, he was satisfied that since the introduction of the scheme there had been less disorder reported to police. With regard to displacement, he added this could not be used as a reason for not taking action, although police did try to figure where the displacement would occur and how to deal with it.

In respect of further consultation and assessment of the Red Card scheme in Brixton, the Chair suggested that Lloyd Leon meet with Supt. Zinzan to discuss further the appropriate use of powers and effect of its application.

The Chair proposed that the Group seek broader discussion on the use of ASBCs and ASBOs throughout the borough at a future meeting.

Members of resident groups in Tulse Hill raised the issue of drug dealers and the problems they caused in the area. the Chair thanked them for sharing their concerns and, in offering its support, said the Group would be keen to look at their action plan once it was agreed.

3. BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Due to technical difficulties in gathering statistical data, the BTP Report was deferred to November. Ch. Insp. Otter said that he would provide a written report to be circulated with the minutes.

4. C-PCG BUSINESS

i. INFORMATION FROM GROUP OFFICERS and MEMBERS

The Group Officers had circulated an information sheet including Meetings/Events; News; Consultations; Future C-PCG Meetings; Other Crime Related Borough Meetings. A briefing note about the Group's new MPA Link Member, John Roberts, was also distributed.

Pauline Bower tabled a report on her visit to the Peel Centre, Hendon on 13 May 2004 to observe police training on stop and search.

Jim Toohill tabled a briefing paper for members on the first meeting of the proposed Lambeth Community Safety Forum (LCSF) on 12 July 2004. He said that there was some confusion about the purpose of the LCSF in light of the work of the Group but, in good faith, the Group Officers intended to

contribute to the formation of the LCSF and work towards making it a forum for agencies to get together to try and resolve crime and disorder problems. Mr Toohill said that Group should avoid wasteful disputes over 'territory' but nonetheless should defend its core values of consultation with the community's police which had to be open accessible and free from patronage.

Group members expressed concerns that a closed and by-invite-only forum such as the LCSF seemed to be a substitute for the Group. With the LCSF's membership appearing to be heavily skewed towards statutory agencies and Lambeth council officials, there was a concern that involvement of members of the community in consultation about policing could be curtailed, while the extent to which the police were accountability to the community would be diminished.

The Most Reverend Bancroft McCarthy expressed his concerns about perceived changes in the consultative process, pointing to the demise of the Hammersmith and Fulham C-PCG of which he was a former chairperson. John Wainwright also queried the relationship with the new Safer Neighbourhood Forums and sector working groups.

The Chair said that the Group officers would continue to contribute constructively but robustly to the ongoing debate around LCSF and the Group kept up to date with further developments.

ii. DRAFT ACTION PLAN

Introducing the Draft Action Plan (DAP), Jim Toohill stated that the means available within it would make the Group fit for purpose and relevant to the

community that the Group serves. The following summarises principal contributions and responses (from Jim Toohill, unless stated otherwise):

MPA Commentary: The MPA had made the following principal observations:

- (1) A more substantive introduction was required;
- (2) The Plan should not be unduly biased towards internal issues and greater emphasis should be given to outreach; the Group might consider delaying amending its constitution;
- (3) The Group might consider holding meetings six-weekly;
- (4) MPA would not sanction the appointment of a full time post in the current year;

Involvement of business: It had already been identified that the Group's membership was patchy in the north of the Borough, where there existed a great deal of commercial and entertainment services. However, the DAP proposed to address the matter in the next fiscal year. (to Richard Moore)

Constitution: Group Officers' shall produce for members a 'plain English' guide to all the work completed by the Constitutional Scrutiny Sub-Committee and Group Officers' input, to enable an early revision of the Constitution. However, if the Group became a limited company and registered as a charity it would have further constitutional implications. (to Judi Chew)

Resources: The amount of outreach work undertaken by the Group was contingent on extra staff and that the Group

Officers were in negotiation with the MPA on that issue. (to Richard Moore)

Meetings: The MPA had suggested that the Group hold fewer meetings. The meeting agreed that this should not be accepted, not least since meetings of other relevant fora in Lambeth were meeting less frequently. However, monthly events may take on other formats to better accommodate under-represented groups for example. (to Pauline Bower)

Members and Outreach: Members would be asked (in the proposed membership survey) what other Group's they belonged to and for suggestions about which groups in the community could join the Group, or which groups it was felt that the Group was not serving. (to Pauline Bower).

Young People: The Group should make greater efforts to engage 20 and 30-somethings. (Pauline Bower)

People with Disabilities: Not all the groups that were under-represented in Group membership had been listed in the Action Plan, but it was clear that the Group was not very representative of disabled people. The Group needed to start monitoring attendance at Group meetings in terms of ethnicity, gender and disability. The Chair said the DAP would be amended to reflect Gary Dando's contribution and spell out what the Group meant by diversity.

The DAP highlighted working groups as good models and the development of the Group's input into other fora, particularly the Crime and Disorder Partnership (C&DP) executive, to complement the Group Chair's membership of the C&DP board.

With the Group's approval, Mr Toohill said that the DAP could, including amendments, be submitted by 10 September to the MPA, who, from prior sight, had indicated that they would be able to recommend the release of funding to the Group for the entire financial year

Richard Moore proposed, and Ann Savage seconded that the DAP be submitted with amendments indicated in the discussion. The DAP was agreed *nem con*.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussion and said that a timeline would be produced in order to give members an opportunity to become involved in Action plan 2005-2006.

iii. The MINUTES of the MEETING 6 JULY 2004

The Minutes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from the Minutes of 6 July 2004 were deferred to the next Group meeting.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Gary Dando, Lloyd Leon, Richard Moore and George Tuson agreed to volunteer to look into issues concerning the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003.

Paul Andell, Anne Savage agreed to look into the Home Office report into prostitution.

The Chair said that he would write to Mr Dando concerning his query about the Group's constitution and the AGM 2004.

The Chair asked Mr Moore to speak with Ben McKendrick regarding the offer of audio equipment.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2004