

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
For LAMBETH**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

5 OCTOBER 2004

ST VINCENT'S C.C. BRIXTON

PRESENT: GROUP OFFICERS Lee Jasper Chairperson; Paul Andell Vice-Chairperson; Rev. Ivelaw Bowman RHC Chairperson; Jim Toohill Hon. Comptroller AFFILIATED MEMBERS Doye Akinlade Brixton Society; Pauline Bower Churches Together in Clapham; Wally Channon Clapham Town N'hood Watch; Gary Dando Cressingham Gardens N'hood Watch and Residents Assoc; Robert Holden Friends of Brockwell Park; Dr Brian Mantell Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women; Paul Reynolds Herne Hill Society; Arulini Velmurugu Lambeth Towers & Lambeth Road Residents Assoc.; Abdul Sultan Virani Lambeth Pensioners Forum; Kathy White Tulse Hill TA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS Peter Harris, Lena James; Bushy Kelly; Richard Moore; Fernando Senior; Cheryl Sealey, Anna Tapsell, Jane Warwick PERMANENT MEMBERS Lloyd Leon ICV Lambeth; Neil Flanigan Victim Support Lambeth; Most Rev. Dr Bancroft McCarthy HM Prison Brixton (Board of Visitors); John Roberts MPA SECTOR WORKING GROUPS John Wainwright Clapham; Judy Chew Kennington LAMBETH COUNCIL Cllr. Robert S. McConnell; Cllr. Peter O'Connell, Cllr. Darren Sanders; Cllr. Lydia Serwaa METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE Brgh. Cmdr. Richard Quinn; Supt. Rick Algar (Streatham); Supt. David Zinzan (Brixton); Ch. Insp. Tim Forber; Ch. Insp. Glynn Jones; PC John Jeffreys SECRETARIAT Ben McKendrick

Members of the public and press were also present

APOLOGIES: Nick Abengowe, Greta Brooks, Victor Brooks, Sheila Draper, David Corderoy, Commander Cressida Dick, Marie Hannelley, Supt. Phil Kay, Supt. Stewart Low, Cllr. Angie Meader, Ann Savage, Wesley Stephenson, George Tuson, Peggy Tyler, Joanna Woodd, Rosa Wright.

Lee Jasper welcomed Ken HO King-Yeng from the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Hong Kong.

**2. LAMBETH POLICE
REPORT**

1. Brgh. Cmdr. Richard Quinn tabled a month by month, year on year statistical report of crime in Lambeth.

2. Giving an overview of police performance in Lambeth up to and including August 2004, Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn reported reductions in street robbery (21%), burglary (17%) and motor vehicle crime (22%) against the previous 12 months. During the past six months, Lambeth had achieved the second highest decrease in total notifiable offences – a 9.1% reduction with 22% detection rate.

3. In response to Paul Andell, Mr Quinn said that he could not say what percentage of detection rates were down to information from members of the public, although there was a large pool of officers who concentrated on victims, witnesses and support network. **Mr Quinn said he was prepared to give a presentation on police performance in respect of criminal justice.**

4. Mr Quinn reported that Commissioner Sir John Stevens had placed domestic violence in the same priority as robbery. In this respect, Lambeth police had been set a target of 50% for solving reported domestic violence offences. Mr Quinn said he was confident of achieving 60% by the end of the financial year.

5. The target for solving racist offences had been set at 22%. Mr Quinn stated that while this was being surpassed at 24%, he believed it could be bettered.

6. Since April 2004, there had been a 40% reduction in gun crime in Lambeth compared to same period in 2003. Working with Trident and the Flying Squad, Mr Quinn said that Lambeth police were presently solving 44% of such crimes, with the second highest detection rate in London.

7. Mr Quinn reminded the meeting that the law had since changed so that persons found in possession of imitation firearms could face five years in prison.

8. In response to Richard Moore, Mr Quinn said that it was not unlawful to sell replica firearms although he wondered why people did not make their protests known to those who retailed such goods.

9. Judy Chew suggested that the Group approach the borough's Members of Parliament with its concerns about replica weapons. However, Lee Jasper stated that the Group had taken a position on the issue and communicated it to the MPA, who along with the MPS and GLA had agreed that weapons capable of being converted should be banned. As

such, the view had been put very forcibly to the Home Secretary.

10. Mr Jasper added that there was a firearms review, of which he was a member, which was seeking to examine all the issues that could not be dealt with through legislation by the Home Secretary, and that he would continue to let him know the Group's view.

11. The latest of seven murders in the borough since 1 January 2004 had occurred on 12 June. Mr Quinn informed the Group that two suspects had been arrested and were still on remand. Of the present 98% detection rate for murder, Mr Quinn put it down to the significant MPS investment and the support of local communities in coming forward with information.

12. Mr Quinn explained that the number of closures of 'crack houses' had diminished due to the fact that there were less of them – helped by new legislation. However, he would not be complacent.

13. With regard to Pedro Keys, a premise closed on Coldharbour Lane for alleged drug offences, Mr Quinn reported negotiating a ten year lease for the building to be used by the police, community safety team and the community. It was anticipated that work would be finished by April 2005. With regard to the Green Man at Loughborough Junction, the former public house was to be turned into flats and a doctor's surgery

14. Mr Quinn thanked group member Richard Moore for his support and funding assistance in respect of crime prevention in Lambeth. He also thanked Jane Warwick and Lena James and said that he recognised the work of the Appropriate Adults scheme and Independent Custody Visitors

15. **Mr Quinn directed Arulini Velmurugu to Det. Ch. Insp. Tim Forber to assist with issues she had raised.**

16. Mr Quinn invited those present to inspect the newly acquired Lambeth mobile police station, which was parked outside the meeting room. Rev. Ivelaw Bowman congratulated Mr Quinn on the acquisition.

17. In response to Pauline Bower's question concerning a breakdown of racist crimes, **Lee Jasper reminded the Group that there would be a presentation on race hate crime at the Group meeting on 2 November.**

18. In response to Paul Reynolds, Mr Quinn said that the feedback he had received about Safer Neighbourhood Forums (SNF) had been superb, with Clapham Town having been identified as an outstanding example. Work was ongoing to identify five further wards for SNFs next year. He added that he was working with Brgh. Cmdr. Ian Thomas, Southwark, in recognition of the fact of displacement of crime that SNF may cause.

19. Mr Quinn said that in relation to Coldharbour Lane he would never be complacent about dealing with the problems in the area, and gave credit to Supt. David Zinzan for the outstanding and successful work undertaken there to date.

20. Supt. Andy Tarrant informed the Group of the appointment of a new Neighbourhood Watch and Volunteers Coordinator. The latter would assist people considering volunteering to work at front counters of police station. Furthermore, a recruitment of Special Constables was ongoing.

21. Rev Bowman expressed his concerns about government opposition leader Michael Howard's comments in the Evening Standard regarding the policing of Lambeth. **Lee Jasper received the support of the Group to write a public letter to Mr Howard expressing the Group's view that it was enjoying the best of times, not the worst of times in respect of**

the policing of the borough of Lambeth.

22. **Members proposed that the letter be signed by those Group members who wished to do so, as well as endorsement sought from Lambeth Council and copied to the media.**

23. **Richard Moore proposed and Lee Jasper agreed that the Group should receive a presentation on the delineation of powers of Police Community Support Officers, Estate Wardens and Traffic Wardens.**

24. In response to Lee Jasper's enquiry regarding the change of venues for Group meetings, those in attendance were largely in favour, although comments were made about the disabled access of the room used for the present evening. Mr Jasper asked members who knew of suitable venues for Group meetings to contact the Group office.

3. COMMANDER CRESSIDA DICK, GUN CRIME

25. Commander Cressida had offered her apologies for not being able to attend, nor was her colleague Det. Supt. Steve Dann present. **The item was therefore deferred to the meeting on 2 November.**

4. STOP & SEARCH MONITORING GROUP (SSMG)

26. Members of the SSMG (Paul Andell, Jim Toohill, Supt. Andy Tarrant) tabled a quarterly update to Stop and Search data and made a presentation focusing on Drugs Stop and Searches.

27. In response to Anna Tapsell, Jim Toohill explained that the disproportionality cited in the report referred to the number of stops per 1000 resident population in the census for each ward. He added that while 50% of those arrested as a result of stop and searched lived outside of the borough, there was no corresponding information relating to those just stopped.

28. In response to Shane Collins, Supt. Tarrant said he did have, but not to hand, data in respect of the disparity in stop and search figures prior to, and after, the Green Leaf cafe was closed. He added that work had started on collating information regarding persons repeatedly stopped by police

29. In response to a question about the racial motivation of persons reporting others to the police Paul Andell, quoted from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (p.33): "Racism, institutional or otherwise, is not the prerogative of the police service. If racism is to be eradicated there needs to be specific and coordinated action both within the agencies themselves and by society at large."

30. **Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn said that he would look into figures for convictions that initially arose from a stop and search.**

31. In response to John Wainwright's comments about a large percentage of Asian youth stopped compared to white youth since 9/11, **Supt. Tarrant said that the SSMG would be analysing stops made under terrorism legislation as further part of its work.**

32. Lee Jasper commended Paul Andell and Jim Toohill for producing, on behalf of the Group, the most advanced analysis of stop and search in the country, and also Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn and his officers for their foresight and courage to tackle a difficult issue.

33. Having observed a number of points emerging, so far, from the SSMG's work, such as levels of disproportionality and management information, Lee Jasper suggested that there was a need for text analysis to accompany and support the excellent statistical work undertaken.

34. For discussion at the next SSMG report in January 2005, **Mr Jasper proposed that the Group develop a narrative to include**

recommendations, for discussion towards a final report being published by March 2005.

35. Jim Toohill echoed Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn in recognising the work of PC Colin Gardiner in compiling the stop and search data.

36. In respect of Recommendation 61, of the Lawrence Inquiry, Supt. Tarrant advised that as of 1 October 2004, every police officer requesting a person in a public place to account for their actions, behaviour, presence or possession of an item, must give that person a copy of a written record of the encounter, completed at the time.

37. Shane Collins requested that the SSMG report be publicised more widely to other groups throughout the borough.

5. C-PCG BUSINESS

i. INFORMATION FROM GROUP OFFICERS and MEMBERS

38. Group Officers had produced a briefing for the meeting which included a monthly review of meetings they had attended, news pertinent to the Group, forthcoming events and a structure for the Group's monthly meeting agenda for members to comment upon.

39. Lee Jasper reported that the Group had received its full funding for the financial year 2004-2005 from the MPA, as well as having its action plan accepted. Richard Moore proposed, Gary Dando seconded, a vote of thanks to the Group Officers for their hard work towards ensuring that the funding issue was resolved.

40. Mr Jasper invited Group members to give their suggestions of items for inclusion in the Group's website and newsletter.

41. Paul Andell reported having attended the London-wide Stop and Search Action Group meeting where action plans had

been devised to implement the MPA's Scrutiny Committee recommendations.

42. Richard Moore tabled Home Office domestic violent leaflets containing a domestic violence helpline number - **0808 2000 247**

43. Gary Dando reminded those present that the **Disabilities Discrimination Act came into effect on 1 October 2004.**

iii. The MINUTES of the MEETING 6 JULY 2004 and 7 SEPTEMBER 2004

The Minutes of the Meeting 7 September

44. The Minutes of the Meeting 6 July 2004 were accepted subject to the inclusion of amendments proposed by John Howard (tabled at the 6 July meeting), and adding Pauline Bower to apologies. **It was agreed to write to Mr Howard for a copy of his amendments.**

Matters Arising from the Minutes 6 July 2004

There were no matters arising

The Minutes of the Meeting 7 September

45. The Minutes of the Meeting 7 September 2004 were accepted without amendment.

Matters Arising from the Minutes 7 September 2004

46. A meeting between Lloyd Leon and Supt. Zinzan concerning drinking in the vicinity of the Ritzy had not yet taken place.

47. Residents who had attended the meeting to discuss drug dealing in their area had written to the Group with thanks for support and intended to give an update in November.

48. Jim Toohill reported that the second meeting of the Lambeth Community Safety Forum had been postponed, although everyone was committed to putting something in place to

open up the Crime Reduction Partnership to community involvement.

49. In relation to a timeline for the Group's Action Plan 2005-2006, **Mr Toohill said that one would be produced during November/December.**

50. Paul Andell said that he had looked at the Home Office consultation paper on prostitution and would report back at the next meeting regarding a response.

51. In response to Cllr. Peter O'Connell, Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn said that he would be making a submission concerning Lambeth's Draft Licensing Policy, which he would share with the Group.

52. PC John Jefferys thanked the Group for its support for the Police Memorial Service held at St Paul's on 3 October 2004.

53. John Wainwright said he had recently met with the Clapham Sector Inspector and cleared up some misunderstandings, and that sector working group meetings would continue as before.

54. Gary Dando reported that Cressingham Gardens had joined together with Brockwell Gate Estate to form the largest neighbourhood watch in Tulse Hill with 1100 members over 850 properties

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

55. In response to Lloyd Leon, **Mr Jasper said he would discuss with the Group Officers and Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn about the value of having an item on the Group's agenda regarding car parking in Lambeth.**

56. Paul Reynolds said that parking was not part of the Group's work, although the abuse that parking wardens received verged on criminality, particularly racist abuse.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2004

Minutes requiring Action shown bold