

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
For LAMBETH**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

2 NOVEMBER 2004

**OLD LIBRARY
WEST NORWOOD**

PRESENT: GROUP OFFICERS Paul Andell, Wesley Stephenson Vice-Chairpersons; Rev. Ivelaw Bowman RHC Chairperson; Jim Toohill Hon. Comptroller AFFILIATED MEMBERS Nick Abengowe Herne Hill Forum; Doye Akinlade Brixton Society; Pauline Bower Churches Together in Clapham; Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler Clapham Town N'hood Watch; David Corderoy Lambeth Chamber of Commerce & Trade; Robert Holden Friends of Brockwell Park; Dr Brian Mantell Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women; Arulini Velmurugu Lambeth Towers & Lambeth Road Residents Assoc.; Jeff Avis Lambeth Pensioners Forum; Kathy White Tulse Hill TA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS Lena James; Richard Moore; Fernando Senior; Anna Tapsell, Jane Warwick PERMANENT MEMBERS Lloyd Leon ICV Lambeth; John Roberts MPA SECTOR WORKING GROUPS John Wainwright Clapham; Judy Chew, Rosa Wright Kennington; George Tuson Streatham S. LAMBETH COUNCIL Cllr. Robert S. McConnell; Cllr. Lydia Serwaa; Cllr. Bernard Gentry METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE Brgh. Cmdr. Richard Quinn; Supt. Rick Algar (Streatham); Supt. Stewart Low (Kennington) Supt. David Zinzan (Brixton); Ch. Insp. Glynn Jones; Ch. Insp. Bruce Lawrence, PC John Jeffrey BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE Ch. Insp. Randolph Otter GLA Val Shawcross SECRETARIAT Ben McKendrick

Members of the public and press were also present

APOLOGIES: Greta Brooks, Victor Brooks, Gary Dando, Sheila Draper, Neil Flanagan, Lee Jasper, Bushy Kelly, Marie Hennesley, Most Rev. Dr Bancroft McCarthy, Paul Reynolds, Ann Savage, Cheryl Sealey, Abdul Sultan Virani, Martin Walsh, Hazel Watson, Hector Watson, Jonathan Toy, Joanna Woodd, Rosa Wright.

Paul Andell expressed the Group's gratitude to Cllr. Robert McConnell for his endeavours towards the establishment of the Old Library, a "fabulous community resource" and venue of the meeting.

LAMBETH POLICE REPORT

1. Det. Insp. Bruce Lawrence, of Lambeth Police Community Safety Unit (CSU) gave a PowerPoint presentation on race hate crime in the borough and tabled a paper copy. Mr Lawrence began by the citing the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry report's definition of racist incident: "Any incident that was perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person."

2. Over the past four years, reported racist incidents had

decreased by 8% per annum, from nearly 700 incidents to 460 for the financial year 2003. However, during this time there had been a rise in the number of racist incidents towards police officers.

3. Most racist offences mainly comprised of episodes of 'road rage', neighbour disputes, and abuse of public service staff, in which the incidents were deemed to be racially aggravated. By comparison, racially motivated crime was low, although it was accepted that many may be unreported. At the same time, there was nothing to suggest that racist incidents occurred in specific places in the borough other than in places where crime was generally more prevalent.

4. The most common racist incidents involved male victims and male suspects, with the largest proportion of offenders and victims being white and black respectively. There were no particular age groups which stood out as being more racist than others.

DI Lawrence gave the following responses to questions

5. To Wesley Stephenson: The CSU's detection rate for racist offences was currently just under 30%, although many victims merely wished to report rather than seek police action. The police, however, would monitor situations and took whatever action was necessary and some people had received substantial sentences.

6. To Kelly ben Maimon: Race crime data presented had been collated from crime reports by an analyst who provided a synopsis. The figures had been audited by the Metropolitan Police Authority.

7. To George Tuson: It was thankfully rare that racially aggravated incidents involved weapons, although criminal damage and verbal abuse occurred.

8. Paul Andell suggested that a victim survey focused on hard to reach groups could be a way

forward with regard to unreported hate crime. He added that with 65% of incidents involving victims and offenders being known to each other that it was perhaps appropriate to investigate the use of mediation.

9. In relation to the Racial Harassment Committee, Mr Andell said that the Group Officers were looking at models of best practice while the imminent appointment of a race, hate crime coordinator would hopefully assist a process of reducing crime in this respect.

10. Rev. Ivelaw Bowman said that there would always be individuals who would seek to use race to divide communities and there was a lot of work to be done, particularly in respect of third party reporting. However, he considered Lambeth to be more racially harmonious than many other London boroughs. He added that he hoped the working relationship between the Group and the police to address racism would grow from strength to strength.

11. It was agreed that the police would provide a more detailed breakdown of racist incidents on a monthly basis.

12. In response to a proposal by Mr Andell, the Group condemned the murder of David Morley on London's South Bank the previous weekend, which was being investigated as a possible homophobic assault. The Group also supported an increased visible police patrols in area.

13. However, a call to condemn the reporting in the press that linked Mr Morley's murder to the lyrics of Jamaican singers was not pursued as Group members were unable to condone the homophobic lyrics of their songs.

14. Supt. Stewart Low tabled a month by month, year on year statistical report of crime in Lambeth up to September 2004.

15. In respect of under-reporting of homophobic offences, Supt. Low stated that police utilised gay police officers to find better ways

of winning over the confidence of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities. As such, a LGBT forum had been established.

16. Supt. Low outlined events in respect of the murder of David Morley, which had occurred at around 3.15 a.m. on Saturday, 30 October, near Hungerford Bridge, opposite the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank.

17. Just prior to Mr Morley's murder there had been two other incidents of assault in the vicinity, which were believed to be linked. The assailants were thought to be black and white youths.

18. At the time the incident came to light, there was nothing in the first instance to suggest the assault was a homophobic attack, but upon learning that the victim was gay the police took the view that it should be investigated as such until there was any evidence to prove the contrary.

19. The police response to the murder was to engage with the local gay community, with which it had built strong links as a result of a Safer Gay Vauxhall strategy, and offer reassurance. Police also had the benefit of its own Race Hate Department which enabled them to link up with an Independent Advisory Group member who provided advice.

20. Police had increased police patrols in the area which would continue for the coming week before being subject of review. On 5 November, a week after Mr Morley's murder, police would seek witness accounts and facilitate a vigil by Mr Morley's family and friends.

21. On Sunday, 31 October, Supt. Low reported that two police officers had been seriously assaulted in Tyers Street after going assist a male wandering in the road. One officer suffered a broken jaw while the other was stabbed in the face. Supt. Low said both officers were out of hospital and recovering at home.

Supt. Low gave the following responses to questions

22. To Val Shawcross (GLA AM): Police were fortunate to have an active business watch at the South Bank and had access to their CCTV. However, while there were gaps in coverage, police did lobby local authorities, Transport for London and others to fund CCTV to cover those blind spots identified.

23. To Kelly ben Maimon: The target for detection of racist offences was 26%. Lambeth's detection rate was currently 27.1%. Brgh. Cmdr. Richard Quinn added that the rate was likely to increase.

24. To Wesley Stephenson: There were various strategies assisting police to deal with domestic violence (DV) offenders. Although there was not an actual large scale programme with partners, police were looking to tackle significant repeat offenders by disrupting them from committing other crimes, as well as DV offences, with which some high profile were involved.

25. Anna Tapsell congratulated the police for the DV detection rate, although it did not demonstrate how many persons were charged or punished for their actions.

26. Ms Tapsell highlighted the large gaps that existed in dealing with the aftermath of domestic violence in Lambeth, in particular women and children having to take refuge in police stations, as there was no local authority provision to support and shelter them. While there had been talk of an overnight safehouse for victims, she said that it did not appear to be forthcoming. Ms Tapsell was also critical of the absence of a London-wide approach to provide housing for DV victims.

27. Cllr. Bernard Gentry, who was unable to give any insight on Council provision available for DV and hate crime victims, stated that he personally believed that the

Council had a moral obligation to work with other agencies, and that people identified as being at risk should be assisted. ***Cllr. Gentry added that he would seek a response from Council officers on the current situation and report back to the Group.***

28. It was agreed to place domestic violence on the agenda for the Group's meeting in January 2005.

29. On crime statistics, Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn stated that Lambeth had reached a point where crime was being brought down. However, he added that apart from enforcement, partnership activity and longer term strategies through funding and the Crime and Disorder Partnership needed to tackle the causes and answer questions such as why Lambeth endured so much violence, abuse the highest incidence of street crime in the country.

30. Supt. David Zinzan said September had been the worse month for crime in Brixton since his arrival. However, since two individuals had been arrested for burglary, one 15 year old boy, figures had gone down to the point that Brixton figures for October were likely to be 28 allegations of burglary below target with 22 detections.

31. In response to Gilly Kinealy, Supt. Zinzan explained that the Red Card Zone in the vicinity of the Ritzy cinema had been introduced to curb anti-social behaviour. Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn added that it was not directed at young people but specific individuals who get drunk and violent and intimidate people using the cinema and library. Furthermore, a public attitude survey undertaken had shown a reduction in the fear of crime in the area over the year.

32. In response to Fernando Senior, Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn said that Lambeth police could not meet its targets of closing down 26 crack houses as there were not that many known to police.

33. Ch. Insp. Glynn said that as result of 19 raids in September aimed at crack houses (8 local authority, 10 housing association and 1 other), police had recovered 505 rocks of crack cocaine. Mr Quinn added that there was a need to analyse crack houses in terms of repeat locations, their profiles and a preventive strategy, which he had given the Community Safety Partnership to look into.

34. In response to Mrs Lynn Thomas, Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn said that he had informed the senior command team of the borough to which the police constable involved in her son's arrest (PC Graham Knight) had moved of the background to the officer's discipline. He added that he did not think it would be the intention to brief the community.

35. Supt. Low proposed to meet with Arulini Velmurugu outside the meeting to discuss the drug issues and disabled access to Kennington police station she raised.

36. Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn said that MPS used consultants to ensure that police stations complied with laws regarding disabled access.

37. Speaking of crime targets, Paul Andell suggested that the numbers were quite small and perhaps there needed to be targets for increased reporting of crime other than clear-ups and reduction. He proposed that the following the Crime and Disorder audit and drawing up the Borough's strategy.

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

38. Ch. Insp. Randolph Otter gave a PowerPoint presentation on British Transport Police crime statistics April to October 2004. Mr Otter explained that he was in charge of 60 officers with responsibility for the overground railway south of the Thames from Wokingham in Berkshire to Gravesend in Kent, including 14 London boroughs and 11 local authorities.

39. Ch. Insp. Otter highlighted the three high crime stations in Lambeth; Waterloo International & Mainline, Brixton and Stockwell underground. In terms of the 100 million passengers that used Waterloo every year, the number of victims was, he said, very low.

40. However, looking at specific crime groups for the first two quarters of the financial year 2004-5, compared to the previous year, crime appeared to have risen at Waterloo, Brixton and Stockwell. Nevertheless, Ch. Inspector Otter proposed that BTP activity in respect of detections for travel fraud and anti-social behaviour increased the crime figure.

Ch. Inspector Otter gave the following responses to questions.

41. To John Wainwright: In relation to high crime figures at Stockwell tube, despite the police station based there, Ch. Insp. Otter said that the police station was an un-staffed resource where officers reported for duty to cover all stations south of the Thames.

42. To Shane Collins: Ch. Insp. Otter said that BTP did use passive dogs as a tactic for drug detection. Brgh. Cmdr. Quinn added that as well as drugs, the use of dogs also helped police recover stolen, arresting wanted persons and persons concealing weapons.

43. Gilly Kinealy highlighted a spate of incidents involving young people slapping people hard who had fallen asleep on public transport and taking photos with their mobiles to send to friends. Ch. Insp. Otter said that he was aware of the 'craze' which understood to have started in the USA. However, he warned that it could have far more serious implications other than being a prank. There was no information about it being carried by particular groups.

44. To Lloyd Leon: *Ch. Insp Otter said that he would provide whatever statistics the Group*

wished for in a format they required.

45. In respect of BTP officers stopping suspected immigration offenders, Ch. Insp. Otter said he would seek the information required and report back to the Group.

44. To Cllr. Gentry: With having to work with a limited number of officers it seemed that BTP was very much understaffed, although BTP did work in partnership and conducted joint operations with the MPS, London Underground and overground staff.

45. To Kelly ben Maimon: Figures for Waterloo immigration offences would be obtained and included in the next BTP report.

46. To Wesley Stephenson: There was only one person providing statistics for 33 boroughs. However, wherever it was possible to provide information required by the Group it would be extracted.

47. To Richard Moore: To contact BTP in an emergency, persons should telephone 999.

48. To Rev. Ivelaw Bowman: It was understood that there was intention to fit trains with CCTV wherever possible and that the newer stock already had it.

GROUP BUSINESS

i. Information from Group Officers and Members

A briefing paper from Group Officers for October was tabled.

ii. Minutes of the Meeting 5 October 2004

Minutes of the Meeting 5 October and Matters Arising from the Minutes were deferred till the meeting of 7 December 2004.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no A.O.B.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2004

Minutes requiring Action shown bold