

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
For LAMBETH**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

7 DECEMBER 2004

**CRESSINGHAM GARDENS
ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: GROUP OFFICERS Lee Jasper
Chairpersons; Rev. Ivelaw Bowman **RHC**
Chairperson; Jim Toohill **Hon. Comptroller**
AFFILIATED MEMBERS Nick Abengowe
Herne Hill Forum; Pauline Bower **Churches**
Together in Clapham; Wally Channon, Peggy
Tyler **Clapham Town N'hood Watch;** David
Corderoy **Lambeth Chamber of Commerce &**
Trade; Gary Dando **CressBrock**
Neighbourhood Watch Dr Brian Mantell
Assoc. of Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women;
Arulini Velmurugu **Lambeth Towers &**
Lambeth Road Residents Assoc.; Paul
Reynolds **Herne Hill Society** **INDIVIDUAL**
MEMBERS Lena James; Richard Moore; Ann
Savage, Fernando Senior; Jane Warwick
PERMANENT MEMBERS Neil Flanigan **Victim**
Support Lambeth MPA **SECTOR WORKING**
GROUPS John Wainwright **Clapham;** Judy
Chew, Rosa Wright **Kennington** **LAMBETH**
COUNCIL Cllr. Robert S. McConnell; Cllr.
Bernard Gentry; Cllr. Darren Sanders;
Jonathan Toy **CST** **METROPOLITAN POLICE**
SERVICE Cmdr. Cressida Dick; Brgh. Cmdr.
Richard Quinn; Supt. Rick Algar (Streatham);
Supt. Stewart Low (Kennington) Supt. David
Zinzan (Brixton); Det. Supt. Phil Kay; Act.. Insp.
Kerry Rowe; PC Jack Wilson; PC Jane Rolph
SECRETARIAT Ben McKendrick

Members of the public were also present

APOLOGIES: Doye Akinlade, Paul Andell,
Greta Brooks, Victor Brooks, Shane Collins,
Sheila Draper, Bushy Kelly, Marie Hennelly,
Lloyd Leon, Most Rev. Dr Bancroft McCarthy,
Cllr. Kirsty McHugh, Cllr. Angie Meader, Cllr.
Peter O'Connell, Ch. Insp. Randolph Otter,
John Roberts, Cheryl Sealey, Wesley
Stephenson, George Tuson, Abdul Sultan
Virani, Martin Walsh., Cllr. John Whelan,
Joanna Woodd

Lee Jasper welcomed
Commander Cressida Dick to the
meeting. Mr Jasper also
congratulated Hector Watson on a
speedy recovery from illness.

**LAMBETH COMMUNITY
SAFETY AUDIT 2004**

1. Jonathan Toy, Head of
Lambeth Community Safety
Team, gave a PowerPoint
presentation on the Lambeth
Community Safety Audit 2004,
highlighting the key issues. Group
members had been sent a copy of
the full report while a summarised
version was tabled.

2. Mr Toy explained that the
borough's audit of crime, fear of
crime and community safety

issues was a three yearly
requirement under the Crime and
Disorder Act 1998. The objective
of the audit had been to examine
what had been achieved over the
previous three years, the
emerging priorities for the next
three years and how they reflected
the concerns of the community.

3. Mr Toy thanked members of
the Group and the community for
their contribution towards the
production of the audit, which was
the result of a considerable
amount of research, consultation
and preparation.

4. The report included the
outcomes of questionnaires,
surveys and focus groups with
over 4,000 contributions from the
community, as well research into
over 20 different sets of data from
various agencies.

5. Mr Toy said that the report
revealed many positive aspects,
such as Lambeth's performance
against other boroughs, the large
reduction in crimes and greater
investment in reassurance
programmes. He added victims
and witnesses had to be at the
heart of Borough strategy over the
next three years with greater
emphasis on youth provision.

6. Mr Toy concluded his
presentation by stating that over
the next three years, beginning
from 1 April 2005, a number of
targets would be set such as
reducing crime by 19.6% in most
categories: "a tall challenge with
the reassurance programme a key
issue."

Mr Toy gave the following
responses to questions:

7. To Gary Dando, who was
concerned about the lack of
reference to disabled in the audit,
Mr Toy referred to a disabled
persons' focus group whose
feedback had been highly
regarded.

8. To a member of the public, Mr
Toy suggested that persons who
volunteered for drug rehabilitation
were more likely to complete their

treatment programme than those
who were compelled to do so.
Brgh. Cmdr. Richard Quinn said
that he undertaken to look at the
effectiveness of drug treatment
and care in Lambeth and its
impact on crime reduction.

9. To Richard Moore, Mr Toy
said he was pleased to have been
working with Supt. Andy Tarrant
over the past year in establishing
a small grants fund to sponsor
local community projects, which
would be doubled for the
forthcoming year. He also
thanked Mr Moore for his support
in respect of this process.

10. To Kelly ben Maimon, Mr Toy
said that the latest view of Office
of the Deputy Prime Minister on
Lambeth Council was positive,
which was largely down to the
hard work of the community
holding the Council to account and
challenging standards.

11. With regard to 30 focus
groups which the Community
Safety Audit employed, Mr Toy
said that they were selected from
a range of different backgrounds
and he would be happy to provide
a breakdown of their make-up. He
added that persons who had
facilitated the focus groups had
received training and that the
focus groups had not been
constrained in their discussions.

12. To Cllr. Gentry, in respect of
joined up work within the Council
and between partners, Mr Toy
said that partnership delivery
teams had been established in
town centre areas consisting of
officers from the Community
Safety Team, Lambeth Council,
Lambeth Police and Streetcare
amongst others. Cllr. Gentry,
however, replied that despite his
position he was unaware of any
meetings that these teams held.

13. On the issue of drugs, Lee
Jasper said that the strategy that
emerged from the audit, in terms
of treatment and crime prevention
and reduction, should consider
how the borough could benefit
from confiscated assets.

14. In respect of the high level of disproportionality in relation to black youths highlighted in the audit, Mr Jasper said that it could not be ignored. He added that bringing black youths together to discuss issues relevant to them could be very difficult for statutory agencies.

15. Mr Jasper proposed that there was a danger of continuing to criminalise many young people for which the process of criminal justice was not 'nuanced enough' to have enough options within it to be able to make more successful community interventions, which could have a greater and more sustainable return with regard to prevention.

16. Fernando Senior emphasised the huge gap in youth provisions which he asserted were unacceptable. Recognising this as a fair point, Cllr. Darren Sanders said that in respect of the Housing Opportunities Fund, for which he and Cllr. Gentry had lobbied, it had become clear that, apart from tackling crime on estates and improving the environment, there was a need for good quality youth and play facilities. And from an initial planning meeting with Jonathan Toy, it was believed that all three issues had to be solved together. He added that he was keen to involve Lambeth Youth Council and others.

LAMBETH POLICE REPORT

17. Brgh. Cmdr. Richard Quinn tabled a month by month, year on year statistical report of crime in Lambeth, about which he gave

18. Mr Quinn reported that Ch. Supt. Martin Bridger, the current borough commander of Ealing would be taking over his post at Lambeth in February 2005. Recent appointments in Lambeth included: Det. Ch. Insp. Ian Smith (Streatham) and Det. Ch. Insp. John Corrigan (Brixton). Ch. Insp. Sean Wilson was to take over the Lambeth Criminal Justice Unit and replaced by Ch. Insp. Suzanne.

Lee Jasper said that the Group Officers would seek a meeting with Ch. Supt. Bridger by the end of January 2005.

In relation to case of Sylbert Farqharson, Mr Quinn reported that the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) had issued an interim statement confirming that they were satisfied that the investigation by Supt. Buchanan of Greater Manchester Police had been properly carried out.

20. The investigation had found that there was no evidence that an officer had racially abused a prisoner, although an allegation of abuse of authority had been substantiated. While the officer concerned could face a Misconduct Board, it was highly unlikely that criminal proceedings would be initiated the officer had been reinstated to full duties

21. Mr Quinn said that he would invite Commander Hagon from the Department of Professional Standards to explain the rationale behind the reinstatement of the officer.

22. Lee Jasper said that it would only be right to express the Group's grave concern about the decision considering the comments made by the civil judge, which did not underpin the view that there was no racism involved in the case. With the consent of the Group, it was agreed that the matter should be more fully discussed at the Group meeting in January 2005.

23. Mr Quinn reported that in relation to drug dealing at the Green Leaf café, Mr Gordon had been found guilty of eleven counts of money laundering and was awaiting sentencing the following day.

24. Mr Quinn thanked members of the community, faith groups, local authority and police involved in the Peace Week in November. He added the Lambeth could build on its success for the next year.

25. Mr Quinn informed the Group of an incident involving a 14 year old Eritrean boy who had collided with a bus on Brixton Hill in the early evening of 30 November. The incident had arisen while police were investigating two allegations of street robbery. The accident occurred after police approached a group of youths, who upon spotting the officers ran off in different directions. Police did not witness the collision but responded immediately and administered first aid.

26. The youth concerned was taken to hospital and placed in intensive care. Following a drug induced coma through medication, the youth was said to be recovering. Two other youths had been arrested.

27. Mr Quinn said the matter had been treated as a critical incident with the Group immediately informed. Police had examined the bus and there were no faults found with it.

28. Rev. Ivelaw Bowman had attended a Gold Group meeting regarding the incident and a second meeting was to be held the following day. Police had also established contact with the Eritrean community as well as the IPCC, who were not treating it as a complaint, and the Crown Prosecution Service, who had been part of the Gold Group. A police family liaison officer had been appointed to the family.

29. There were significant witnesses to the incident and police were also examining CCTV footage from the bus.

30. In relation to the Derek Bennett inquest, Mr Quinn said the jury was expected to retire early the following week to consider the evidence and deliver their verdict. Depending on the outcome, Mr Quinn said that he was prepared to meet with the Group Officers once it had been announced and/or report back to the Group in January.

31. Mr Quinn reported that the Gay community had commended Lambeth police for the manner they had instigated the investigation and their professional response into the murder of David Morley on 30 October. Six individuals between the ages 14 and 17 years had been arrested in connection of the murder. Mr Quinn said that he could give no further details at this early stage.

Mr Quinn and his officers gave the following responses to questions:

32. Supt. Low to Hector Watson: Police had been robust in operations in Landor Road against drug dealers and anti-social behaviour with which it had achieved significant gains using anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) with the help of the community. With the assistance of Lambeth legal services, individuals served with ASBOs had had their names and photographs published and taken back to the community. Lighting in the area had also been improved as well as other environmental aspects such as the removal of graffiti.

33. Supt. Zinzan to Gary Dando: Police crime prevention officers were looking into designing out crime in the vicinity of Brixton market where, at present, it was difficult to use CCTV cameras to their maximum use. However, it would mean a reduction of stalls. Drug dealers in the area were moving from one place to another in the area and police were seeking a long-term holistic solution. In respect of illegal minicabs, police had closed down illegal minicab companies in Brixton, while at same time there was a MPS-wide campaign against such businesses.

34. In Tulse Hill, as a result of suspects being under observation, five persons had been charged with for drug dealing on 2 December. Three were in custody and two on bail. Police were working with local residents groups to improve the area and

already had an exit strategy devised.

35. Mr Quinn said that he would report back with further information relating to the murder of Victoria Abu Mensah.

36. Lee Jasper congratulated Mr Quinn on the crime statistics that once again showed month on month reductions.

37. Commander Cressida Dick informed the Group that she worked within the Special Crimes Directorate (SCD) at New Scotland Yard, which dealt with crimes that borough policing was unable to deal with due to lack of specialist skills, or the nature of the crime requiring particular resources.

38. Cmdr. Dick said that her particular responsibility was gun crime and that she sat above Trident, Trafalgar, The Flying Squad, contracts to kill, kidnap, hostage taking, cross border crime and other serious crimes. She was held to account by the Commissioner for gun crime across the whole of London.

39. Cmdr. Dick said that Lambeth matched the MPS trend in terms of crime, if not better, according to recorded figures, and paid tribute to Lambeth's significant reductions. However, there were some worrying trends with gun crime offenders and victims younger than they used to be, and the ease at which guns could be acquired. Even so shootings in London were reducing, which bucked the national trend.

40. Gun crime would continue to be a very high priority for the MPS and its reduction was to be an objective for the forthcoming year. Cmdr. Dick said that one key to reducing gun crime in enforcement terms was for there to be a good working relationship between the SCD and borough officers, across borough boundaries, as well as with national and international agencies. It was also necessary to be proactive, such as the

officers in Lambeth had, for example, proved against gangs.

41. Another significant key to fighting gun crime was the fact that nothing could be achieved without the community working well with the police, which had been demonstrated by the increase in information, intelligence and evidence from people over the past five years, particularly in Lambeth. Cmdr. Dick said that this meant murders such as Kevin Forsythe, Adrian Marriot and Nicholas Davies, investigated by Trident, could be expected to be solved. This contributed to very high detection, charge and conviction rate.

42. However, Cmdr. Dick stated that enforcement was not the answer in the long term and she was encouraged by the Lambeth Community Safety Audit and things that were planned for the future; such as early intervention, since most people who became involved in gun crime had been heavily involved in other crimes for a long time, having started quite young.

43. In response to Fernando Senior, Cmdr. Dick said that she did not believe there was a great understanding in the UK regarding the sources of firearms, although it was quite clear that a majority of gun crime offences involved replica, imitation and converted weapons, while the prevalence and use of *real* firearms was less. However, there had been much success in respect of combating the former types of firearms over the past two years.

44. At the same time, not many firearms were being discovered by H.M. Customs, though many firearms were acquired via the internet, a legal loophole that police and the Government wanted to address. Cmdr. Dick said that she had asked her team for targets for seizing firearms.

45. Richard Moore asked Cmdr. Dick to seek support from the Commissioner to ban the sale of replica firearms. Cmdr. Dick said

that the Government had concluded its consultation regarding this matter and a decision was awaited.

46. Lee Jasper said that the Commissioner, the MPA and Mayor's office had a view that more could be done by the Government in terms of banning replica weapons but it seemed there was more needed to be done to convince the Government to do so.

47. Rev. Bowman commented that Trident had made a difference and that people were coming forward to assist in investigations. He added that Trident, a national and international success story, was sending out a message and that he and other Independent Advisory Group members were proud to part, although there was still much to do. Cmdr. Dick said that she agreed with Rev. Bowman concerning Trident advertising its successes.

48. Mr Jasper said that Group Officers had sought to establish a role for the Group that could open up community engagement and develop community safety initiatives. As such, they had agreed to work with the Community Safety Team and the MPA to chart a development plan for CPCGs in terms of the modern day environment, which was contextualised by the Home Office White Paper "Building Communities, Beating Crime: A Better Police Service for the 21st Century.

49. The White Paper explained the national rollout of neighbourhood policing with an improved police response, a better customer service, further modernisation of the workforce and, in applying to the Group, greater involvement of communities and citizens in determining how their communities were to be policed.

GROUP BUSINESS

i. Information from Group Officers and Members

50. A briefing paper from Group Officers for November had been circulated with the December Agenda.

51. Mr Jasper informed the meeting that the MPA were seeking to support the Group with some funding for consultancy to develop a paper with proposals for a new model for CPCGs in terms of the White Paper. Mr Jasper said that Group members would be given an opportunity for input. For further details, Group members were asked to contact Paul Andell who was taking a lead on the matter.

52. Mr Jasper announced an additional five Lambeth wards to the Safer Neighbourhood programme: Bishops, Ferndale, Herne Hill, Oval and Streatham Wells - which would join three others established; Clapham Town, Coldharbour and Vassal.

53. Mr Jasper reported that Jim Toohill and Ben McKendrick had attended MPA surgeries in respect of the Group's funding bid 2005-6, which had to be submitted by the 17 December 2005. He added that the Group would bring the Group's action plan for the period to the Group meeting in January. Jim Toohill invited members to attend a workshop to discuss the action plan on Saturday, 11 December. Members, however, agreed to discuss the matter in January.

54. Richard Moore proposed that anyone who had a contribution could e-mail the Group by Monday, 13 December, 2005. Judy Chew suggested that the action plan should be the first item on the January agenda in light of the time that would be needed to discuss it

55. Jim Toohill recommended that Group should commission Robert Bronkhurst, of the charitable trust called Interchange, to draw up memorandum and articles for Company and Charitable registration as outlined in the tabled briefing. There would be opportunity for members to input

into the draft documents. The meeting agreed to the proposal.

i. Minutes of the Meeting 5 October 2004

56. Minutes of the Meeting 5 October 2004 were agreed without amendment.

ii. Minutes of the Meeting 2 November 2004

57. Minutes of the Meeting 2 November 2004 were agreed without amendment.

Matters Arising

58. Lee Jasper said that a list of actions from the meetings 5 October and 2 November would be compiled and updates provided.

59. Cllr. Gentry provided an interim paper on the provision Lambeth Council made for victims of domestic violence. It was agreed to circulate the paper with Group's next agenda. Cllr. Gentry also agreed to give a fuller report at the Group meeting on 1 February 2005, at which domestic was to be an agenda item.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

60. On behalf of the Group, Lee Jasper congratulated Rev. Ivelaw Bowman, who was to be installed as a Canon of Southwark Cathedral on 6 February 2005.

61. Affiliation of Clapham Community Partnership to the Group was agreed.

62. Change of name Cressingham Gdns Est. N'hood Watch to Cress Brock N'hood Watch was noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, 11 JANUARY 2005

at

Lambeth Accord

336 Brixton Road SW9 7AA

minutes requiring Action shown bold

Did we not say we'd run the numbering through???