

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
For LAMBETH**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1 FEBRUARY 2005

**WEST INDIAN EX-
SERVICEMENS ASSOC.
CLAPHAM MANOR STREET**

PRESENT: GROUP OFFICERS Lee Jasper
Chairperson: Paul Andell, Wesley
Stephenson **Vice-Chairpersons:** Jim Toohill
Hon. Comptroller AFFILIATED MEMBERS
Doye Akinlade **Brixton Society;** Pauline
Bower, Rev. David Isherwood **Churches
Together in Clapham;** Wally Channon,
Peggy Tyler **Clapham Town N'hood
Watch;** David Hart, Ros Munday **Clapham
Community Partnership;** Marie Hennelly
North Clapham housing Forum; Arulini
Velmurugu **Lambeth Towers & Lambeth
Road Residents Assoc.;** Paul Reynolds
Herne Hill Society; George Tuson
**Streatham Common Southside N'hood
Watch Assoc.;** Abdul Sultan **Virani
Lambeth Pensioners Forum;** Hector
Watson **West Indian Ex-Servicemen's
Association INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS** Lena
James; Richard Moore; Ann Savage,
Fernando Senior; Anna Tapsell; Jane
Warwick **PERMANENT MEMBERS** Lloyd
Leon **Lambeth ICV Panel;** Joanna Woodd,
Neil Flanigan **Victim Support Lambeth;**
Most Rev'd Dr Bancroft McCarthy **HM
Prison Brixton (Board of Visitors);** John
Roberts **MPA;** Marianna Tortell **LCPT
SECTOR WORKING GROUPS** John
Wainwright **Clapham;** Michael Somers
Kennington CO-OPTED MEMBERS Shane
Collins, Gill Kenneally **LAMBETH COUNCIL**
Cllr. Robert S. McConnell; Cllr. Bernard
Gentry; Cllr. Angie Meader; Cllr. Peter
O'Connell, Jonathan Toy **CST
METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Brgh.
Cmdr. Martin Bridger, Ch. Supt. Richard
Quinn; Supt. Rick Algar (Streatham); Supt.
Stewart Low (Kennington) Supt. David
Zinzan (Brixton); Det. Supt. Phil Kaye; Supt.
Andy Tarrant (Community Partnership); Det.
Insp. Dean Haydon; PC Jason Hitchcock;
PC Jack Wilson **SECRETARIAT** Ben
McKendrick

Members of public/press were also present

Apologies: Nic Abengowe; Greta and Victor
Brooks; Peter Clapton; Rev. Ivelaw Bowman;
David Corderoy; Gary Dando; Sheila Draper;
Brian Mantell; John Podmore; Cllr. Steve
Reed; Andrew Viner

Introduction

1. Lee Jasper thanked the men and women of the West Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association for assistance in hosting the evening's meeting.

2. Mr Jasper introduced Ch. Supt. Martin Bridger, the new Borough Commander of

Lambeth. In the first instance, Mr Bridger said that he would like to put on record his appreciation for what Ch. Supt. Richard Quinn and his team had achieved over the past couple of years in Lambeth, which had been recognised throughout the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

3. Mr Bridger informed the Group that prior to coming to Lambeth, he had been the borough commander of Ealing.

4. Mr Bridger said that he had 27 years of police service, having started as a police constable in Battersea, and then as a detective constable in Streatham. From there on, he had worked with The Flying Squad, Child Protection Team, Area and National Crime Squads and Anti-Corruption Command. Mr Bridger added that he had also worked for two years with the Police Ombudsman's Office for Northern Ireland, where he helped set up a totally independent police complaints system.

5. Mr Bridger said that he had had a fantastic time as a borough commander in Ealing, particularly from the perspective of interaction and engagement with the public and the ability to see where police could make a difference to people's lives.

6. Mr Bridger declared that he was happy to have accepted the challenge of being borough commander of Lambeth and making a positive difference to the lives of the Lambeth community.

Lambeth Police Report

7. Brgh. Cmdr. Bridger tabled a month by month, year on year statistical report of crime in Lambeth, about which he gave a PowerPoint presentation. However, before commencing with his report, ***Mr Bridger invited the Group to let him***

know what topics they would like to see routinely covered in the report.

8. In respect of crime reduction in Lambeth, Mr Bridger said that it was good news in terms of street robbery, down to between 7 and 9 incidents per day, and burglary, down to 214 offences in December 2004 compared to 268 in December 2003. However, despite the reductions in some areas, Mr Bridger said that he was aware that many crimes went unreported such as domestic violence and homophobic crime.

9. In relation to the murder of Victoria Adu Mensah in early 2003, Mr Bridger said that forensic examinations were ongoing and results awaited.

10. With regard to analysis of crack houses in terms of repeat locations, their profiles and preventative strategy being examined by the Community Safety Partnership, Mr Bridger said that work in this area was still ongoing and he would report back at a later date.

11. In respect of stop and search data concerning convictions that arose from the police power, Mr Bridger reported that various MPS databases needed to be reconciled but the information would be forthcoming.

12. Further to stop and search, Mr Bridger asserted that there was no issue of disproportionality with regard to Muslim community in Lambeth.

13. Mr Bridger said that he passionately believed in the principle of Safer Neighbourhoods (SN), which provided a team of one sergeant, two police constables and three Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) dedicated to a ward. As such, Mr Bridger promised that SN teams would not be abstracted for any other police duties.

14. Mr Bridger expected the SN teams to be problem solvers, taking responsibility for a wide range of local issues such as crack houses, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and victims of crime, and calling upon additional assistance as and when required.

15. Speaking of gun crime in Lambeth, Mr Bridger said that there was a need for a coordinated approach and he had therefore instigated a review which would involve engaging with partners and the community. The review, which would take three months to complete, was expected to lead to a coherent strategy.

16. Mr Bridger said that he had already arranged meetings with the head teachers of the twelve secondary schools in Lambeth to determine what was occurring in schools around gun crime. Mr Bridger said that the aspiration of the strategy would be to deter people carrying guns or bringing guns into Lambeth with no tolerance of gun criminality.

17. Mr Bridger expressed a keenness that police in Lambeth would focus on drug problems and combat them wherever and whenever they were able to intervene.

18. Mr Bridger said that the local annual Policing Plan 2005-2006 was due to be published. While a number of targets had been set, he added that the Government was asking for much more than previous in terms of areas of performance, in which he hoped everyone could play a part. **Mr Bridger proposed to give an overview of the targets set for Lambeth police, as of 1 April 2005, at the next Group meeting**

19. To Marianna Tortell, Mr Bridger said that domestic violence was a big issue for Lambeth and he was pleased to see an increase in reporting. He added that next year's policing

plan sought a rise in number of detections.

20. Anna Tapsell proposed that the Group invite a Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) representative to the next Group meeting for the domestic violence agenda item. She said it was necessary to know how successful they have with victimless prosecutions. Mr Bridger agreed.

21. In response to Abdul Sultan Virani, Mr Bridger said that pensioners were, like any vulnerable group, a big concern to police, particularly in respect of bogus callers.

22. To Lloyd Leon, Mr Bridger said that he did support the Group and, while things moved on, he already had spoken with Lee Jasper about the work the Group was becoming involved in and was supportive of it. He added that like previous borough commanders he would continually seek improvement, and would be making some adjustments and emphasis on certain things. However, he was not going to tear up everything that Ch. Supt. Quinn had put in place and he would be transparent and open in his work.

23. Det. Supt. Phil Kaye agreed to talk with Arulini Velmurugu about issues of crime in her own area and report back to the Group in two months.

24. In response to Richard Moore, Supt. Andy Tarrant said that while Lambeth had 65 primary schools, police did most of its work within 12 secondary schools - where three officers were currently working. However, he added that police did not neglect junior schools and encouraged local ward officers to visit. Furthermore, young children were engaged interactively via the website www.missdorothy.com

25. Jonathan Toy said that he was impressed by the missdorothy.com programme, which helped young people on issues of safety and criminality. He said that he was also excited by the prospect of the extended schools programme, through which schools could be used in a much broader way to engage in work within a community setting.

26. Supt. David Zinzan said that he would look into the issue of a police officer who supposedly needed reimbursement for his mobile phone usage from local residents, instead of the police. Lee Jasper asked for a report back.

27. In response to the matter of comparative figures for the closure of crack houses from Kelly ben Maimon and John Howard, Lee Jasper added the reduction in the number of crack houses on a year by year basis was evident by the absence of the misery that they caused. He added, however, that the local authority needed to make more progress on the extent that it followed up and dealt with the issue of tenancy. Furthermore, as a consequence of the reduction of such premises, another problem had arisen in the number of dealers dispersed on street corners selling crack.

28. Jonathan Toy said that he would bring the figures that showed the reduction of crack houses to the next meeting, as well as the measure of success the council has had with repossessions.

Information from Group Officers and Members

29. Jim Toohill referred those present to the February briefing paper (tabled), which informed on: Group finance and funding; proposed charitable status; meeting with the new Borough Commander; Mental Health sub-group; Group proposal of new

police building to be named after Arlene Mundle; Brixton central square; cash flow from 31 March 2004 to date and forecast to year end; and MPA funding recommendations.

30. Lee Jasper told Richard Moore that the Group's proposed Mental Health sub-group would provide, when completed, a copy of its submission to the MPA/NHS scrutiny to the Lambeth First assembly.

31. Mr Moore proposed a vote of thanks [which was carried] to the Group Officers for the hard work, with help from some members, in securing funding for the forthcoming financial year

32. **A record of Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meetings 5 October, 2 November and 7 December 2004 was provided. All matters arising would remain on the record until resolved.**

33. **Minutes of the Meeting 7 December 2004 were accepted without amendment.**

34. **Matters Arising from the Group Meeting on 7 December 2004.**

35. In relation to obtaining information from partnership delivery teams, Cllr. Bernard Gentry urged anyone who wished to obtain information from Lambeth Council to use the Freedom of Information Act. He added that the new Borough Solicitor had made it clear that members of the public should be given information if at all possible and the Council would be open than had in the past [Minute 12, 7/12/04].

36. **Richard Moore asked Cllr. Gentry if he could provide written copies of the answers he had received for distribution at the next Group meeting.**

37. George Tuson said that he was aware of a Streatham

Crime Working Group, which met frequently, and had published a document which could be of interest to the Group and of assistance to Cllr. Gentry.

38. ***On behalf of the Group, Lee Jasper asked Mr Bridger if it was possible to have a full list of the groups working on crime and community safety issues across the borough.***

39. **Minutes of the Meeting 11 January 2005 were accepted with the following amendment: Add Brian Mantell to apologies.**

40. **Matters Arising from the Group Meeting on 11 January**

41. In respect of Paul Andell's request to Borough Commander Bridger to consider seeking the Group's help in setting targets in the future [Minute 16, 11/1/05], Jim Toohill said that while a response would be needed, the Borough Commander had already suggested – at a meeting with Group Officers – ***that the Group input into priority setting (ahead of the borough's 2006/7 policing plan) in the autumn of 2005.***

42. Research was ongoing regarding schemes to supply heroin users with a prescription for their addiction. Shane Collins informed members that he had tabled a Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on prescribing heroin [Minute 20, 11/1/05].

43. A meeting had been arranged with Jonathan Toy and members of the in West Norwood community to discuss gun crime and gangs [Minute 63, 11/1/05].

44. Invitations to a panel, including Stuart Bell, Chief Executive of the Maudsley Hospital, Lambeth Housing and Social Services, Primary Care Trust, Tessa Jowell MP and MPS representatives to discuss mental health and policing in

Lambeth had still to be arranged [Minute 67, 11/1/05].

45. Cllr. Meader's offer to contribute to a Mental Health sub-group had been taken up and an initial would be arranged in the near future [Minute 68, 11/1/05].

46. Cllr. Darren Sanders informed the Group that there was an issue in Lambeth about access for people with mental health problems who undergo a crisis e.g. psychosis. He added that there could be a consultation on how a service could develop, particularly in view of the strong relationship between those who suffer psychosis who may commit offences. He said that he hoped for input from the Group when the consultation occurred.

47. In response to Fernando Senior, Lee Jasper confirmed that PC Bridgeman, who had been involved in the arrest of Sylbert Farquharson, had been reinstated following suspension. He added that the Group Officers had made it clear that they were deeply disappointed with the decision, which had pre-empted the CPS and IPCC recommendations, and had written to the new MPS Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair.

Group's Action Plan

48. Jim Toohill gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Group's Action Plan for the year 2005-2006, which the MPA would be considering on 3 February 2005 in connection with the Group's funding bid.

49. Mr Toohill explained that the MPA's timetable had been ahead of the Group's and had been requested by 17 December 2004. The Group would have normally considered the Action Plan at its Group meeting in January 2005, which in turn was taken up with the Sylbert Farquharson and Derek Bennett issues. The Group,

however, did hold a workshop on 25 February 2005 for members to explore the issues.

50. Mr Toohill gave account on how the world of community and police consultation had changed since the time of Lord Scarman's report into the Brixton Disorders in 1981. When the Group was set up, the Group mainly engaged with the MPS, at that time the MP Force, the Home Office and, more latterly, the Metropolitan Police Committee.

51. These days, Mr Toohill said that as well as Safer Neighbourhoods, there existed a plethora of Town Centre and single issue fora e.g. Pensioners Forum, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Forum and active voluntary sector. Therefore, the "powers that be," which themselves had multiplied, and included the Local Strategic Partnership, the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team/Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (DAAT/CDRP), the MPA, the Government Office for London, as well as the MPS and Home Office, had many places to go to consult. With so many possible relationships, there were therefore different ways for interested parties to consult with others.

52. Mr Toohill suggested that the Group's business was in engagement, in this new context, and that the Action Plan sought to provide a progression of opportunities to match the span of commitment within the community.

53. For those who just wanted information there was a website, newsletters and fact sheets. For residents who wanted a more participative engagement, there would be events such as the monthly meetings. For more proactive individuals there would be sub-groups, such as the much respected Stop and Search Monitoring Group (S&SMG). For those wishing to

engage with policing more directly, e.g. prospective Gold Group members, there were proposals for training and accredited, recognised skills.

54. John Roberts congratulated the Group on its Action Plan, which he supported. He added that he would be recommending that the Group received its proposed funding bid.

55. For the record, Lloyd Leon said that he wanted to make it clear that Lambeth Council was totally involved with the Group from the beginning, having set it up with the police and the Home Office.

56. In response to Marianna Tortell, Lee Jasper explained that the Group's capacity only allowed for two sub-groups. However, the S&SMG's work was expected to come to an end before the beginning of the next financial year, which could present an opportunity for the Group to engage more than it did already with the issue of domestic violence, and consolidate its relationship with organisations on a number of issues.

57. John Roberts added that domestic violence was rising and was a priority on the MPA's agenda and looking at putting more into training in the forthcoming year.

58. With the impending Mental Health Act, Anna Tapsell proposed that the Group needed an initial understanding of what the changes were going to be and the impact on the work of the police, which could constrain the work of the Mental Health sub-Group.

59. The Group members approved of the Group's Action Plan.

Co-opted Members

60. The Group agreed to co-opt Peter Clapton, Shane Collins and Gill Kenneally to the Group.

Any other business

61. *Fernando Senior proposed that Lambeth Council's Director of Education be invited to a Group meeting, to explain the condition, state and future planning of Lambeth Youth Service. The proposal was agreed nem con.*

62. A member of the public representing Tulse Hill residents reported back on police action on drug dealing in the area. Thanking Supt. Zinzan, Insp. Ralph Hyde and PC Geoff Turner for their fantastic work and the great difference made, she added that residents would maintain working with the police to ensure that the successes made would continue.

63. Lee Jasper thanked the Tulse Hill residents for coming back and updating the Group on the commendable action of the community and police.

64. Lloyd Leon asked that it be put on record that the Group expressed its gratitude to Lord Scarman who died on 8 December 2004. The Group agreed.

65. Paul Reynolds expressed concern that the stand-off at City Hall (in respect of the Mayor's budget) could impact on the provision of Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Lee Jasper said he was confident that budget issues would be resolved, as in previous years.

Lambeth's Community Safety Strategy

66. The formal meeting was followed by a Workshop session on Lambeth Community Safety Strategy, 2005 – 2008, led by Jonathan Toy and his staff.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday, 1 March 2005
Lambeth Accord
336 Brixton Road SW9**

