

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
for LAMBETH**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

5 APRIL 2005

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
TOOTING BEC GARDENS**

PRESENT: GROUP OFFICERS

Paul Andell **Vice-Chairperson**;
Jim Toohill **Hon. Comptroller**;
Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman

AFFILIATED MEMBERS Nick

Abengowe **Herne Hill Forum**;

Pauline Bower **Churches**

Together in Clapham;

Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler **Clapham**

Town N'hood Watch;

David Corderoy **Chamber of**

Commerce;

Gary Dando **CressBrock**

Neighbourhood

Watch;

Hedley Johnson **West**

Indian Standing Conference;

Dr Brian Mantell **Assoc. of**

Jewish Ex-Servicemen and

Women;

Paul Reynolds **Herne**

Hill Society;

Abdul Sultan Virani **Lambeth**

Pensioners' Forum;

George Tuson **Streatham**

Common Southside N'hood

Watch Assoc.;

INDIVIDUAL

MEMBERS Lena James; Peter

Harris; Richard Moore; Ann

Savage, Cheryl Sealey,

Fernando Senior; Anna Tapsell;

Jane Warwick **PERMANENT**

MEMBERS Lloyd Leon

Lambeth ICV Panel;

Marianna Tortell **Lambeth**

Crime

Prevention Trust;

Susan Jacobs **Crown Prosecution**

Service;

Neil Flanigan,

Josephine Metcalf **Victim**

Support Lambeth;

Most Rev'd Dr Bancroft McCarthy **HM**

Prison Brixton (Board of

Visitors);

John Roberts **MPA**;

SECTOR WORKING GROUPS

John Wainwright **Clapham**

CO-

OPTED MEMBERS Shane

Collins **LAMBETH COUNCIL**

Cllr. Lydia Serwaa; Cllr. Cllr.

Robert S. McConnell; Cllr. Peter

O'Connell, Khadir Meer **CST**

METROPOLITAN

POLICE

SERVICE Ch. Supt. Martin

Bridger, Supt. David Zinzan

(Brixton); Supt. Andy Tarrant
(Community Partnership); Det.
Insp. Dean Haydon

SECRETARIAT Ben
McKendrick

Members of public/press were
also present

Apologies: Cllr. Charles Anglin;
Greta and Victor Brooks; Peter
Clapton; Sheila Draper; Cllr.
Bernard Gentry; David Hart,
Marie Hennelly; John Horrocks;
Lee Jasper; Bushy Kelly; Gill
Keneally; Cllr. Angie Meader;
June Pilgrim, John Podmore;
Mehmuda Mian Pritchard; Cllr.
Darren Sanders; Michael
Somers; Ch. Insp. Suzanne
Wallace; Wesley Walters-
Stephenson; Hazel Watson;
Arulini Velmurugu.

Introduction

1. Paul Andell chaired the
meeting as Lee Jasper had
been called a short notice to be
in attendance at St Thomas'
Hospital with his daughter.

2. Paul Andell welcomed Jo
Metcalf of Victim Support to her
first Group meeting.

3. Paul Andell reported that
meeting of 1 March had been
Jonathan Toy's last. Since 1
April he had taken up a
Community Safety post in
Southwark. Mr Toy had not
mentioned it due to the lateness
of the hour and informed the
Group Officers after the meeting
had ended. The Group agreed
that Mr Andell should write to Mr
Toy to thank for his contribution
towards tackling crime and
addressing community safety
issues in Lambeth.

Lambeth Police Report

4. Borough Commander Martin
Bridger tabled copies of his
presentation on the performance
of Lambeth police over the past
month, with comparable
statistics to previous
months/year.

5. Mr Bridger emphasised a
decrease in Total Notifiable
Offences over the past financial
year; including reductions in
robbery 8.7%, burglary 16.3%,
and motor vehicle crime down
by 18%.

6. Mr Bridger reiterated his view
that a 5.7% increase in domestic
violence incidents represented
confidence in reporting such
crimes. He added that as of 1
April Lambeth police had put
more resources into dealing with
incidents of domestic violence
while there was increased
activity amongst the Crime and
Disorder Reduction Partnership.

8. With regard to hate crime, Mr
Bridger stated that there had
been a very slight decrease of
minus 0.5%, in reported
incidents, although police had
surpassed the 26% detection
target, by attaining 32.4%. In
relation to homophobic crime
there had been a 21.2%
increase with a 23.8% detection
rate, which was below the 25%
target.

9. Incidents of rape had
increased over the past year by
31.7 %, which translated into 38
more victims than the previous
year. A 34.2% detection rate
was greater than the 32% target.

10. Mr Bridger said the police
would have to work much harder
in the forthcoming year in
respect of detection rates with
targets having been set higher.

11. In relation to gun crime, Mr
Bridger insisted that it would not
be possible to sustain a
reduction in gun crime and the
fear of gun crime without the
continued support of the
community. Mr Bridger said
Lambeth police were active and
working in partnership in relation
to gun crime but more needed to
be done.

12. Mr Bridger acknowledged
the difficulty for members of the
community to assist in

supporting prosecutions for firearm offences, saying that despite their courage they could suffer retaliation, threats and be pressurised not to give evidence.

13. Mr Bridger said that he was seeking ways to engage with the community and gather intelligence, and three weeks ago had launched a dedicated free telephone line to contact him personally to receive information for a six week period.

14. The response to the telephone line had been fantastic, Mr Bridger told the Group, and he had received some excellent intelligence. While some people did not wish to give their name, others were willing to and requested feedback.

15. In time, and at the appropriate moment, Mr Bridger said that he would share as best he could the intelligence he had received with people in the community.

16. Mr Bridger said that all intelligence received was useful as it could help to build up a picture of particular individuals already known and their activities.

17. During the past financial year, police had seized 137 firearms in Lambeth, mainly by Lambeth officers who, Mr Bridger said, showed great courage in dealing with such cases, as did members of the community in coming forward and assisting police.

18. During the same period, gun enabled crime offences had been reduced by 26.2%, from 286 offences to 211. However, Mr Bridger said that it was still a high figure and that he was very conscious of the fear of gun criminality.

19. Mr Bridger showed pictures of guns seized in the community as well as video clip of the damage wreaked by a handgun which could fire up to 250 bullets per minute.

20. In relation to night clubs, bars and pubs, Mr Bridger said he aimed to make them safe and enjoyable places to go. However, he said that some establishments ignored crime prevention advice and were not as safe as he, the Council and members of the public would like.

21. Mr Bridger reported that a night club in Kennington had been closed following a shooting incident on 31 December 2004, when a person was seriously injured, which was followed by a drive-by shooting a couple of months later.

22. Mr Bridger said that he appointed an officer to collate information about clubs and pubs in Lambeth and crime prevention/security measures in place in each one. He said it was his aspiration that every club should have a common standard of safety across the borough.

23. Mr Bridger informed the Group that 40 marked police cars in Lambeth were fitted Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) which would enable police officers to deal with specific calls much better.

24. In relation to Freedom of Information Act, Lambeth police had since from the 1 January 2005 received seven requests by letter, one by e-mail, and three referrals from other MPS departments for information.

Response to questions

25. To Sue Jacobs, Mr Bridger said that besides looking at financial aspects of suspects involved in gun crime, such as social security, police would also

analyse proceeds of crime in relation to identifying the origination of crimes.

26. To Lloyd Leon, Mr Bridger said that while he understood that some members of the community had a deep rooted, historical mistrust of the police, he agreed that many people were prepared to assist the police.

27. To Gary Dando, Mr Bridger said that the police would be making information available about the levels of crime by ward and Safer Neighbourhood (SN) basis. ***As part of his SN presentation Mr Bridger said he would demonstrate the selection process for future SN wards.***

28. In respect of the murder of Victoria Adu Mensah, Mr Bridger said that he would give an update next month.

29. To Ann Savage, Mr Bridger said that the Commissioner was very committed to the action team looking at gun crime, although, apart from Trident issues, it was up to each Borough Commander how gun crime was addressed, and that the Commissioner was encouraged by what Lambeth police were doing.

30. With regard to Community Wardens, Mr Bridger said that most of the things he heard about them were quite positive. However, he said the issues raised about them finishing work at 5.00 p.m. could be looked into.

31. To Shane Collins, Mr Bridger said that work was already underway to look into the issues surrounding 'Happy Hours'. He added that during the Easter bank holiday an operation had been run around compliance with licensing laws, with every place visited found to be flaunting them.

32. With regard to the difference between the big clubs and smaller community places, Mr Bridger said that police made a distinction in terms of concentrating their efforts in respect of compliance with the law, crime prevention and safety measures being observed.

33. To Cllr. Lydia Serwaa, Mr Bridger said that diversionary work with youngsters to prevent them becoming involved in gun crime was a large part of police partnership strategy. In relation to where guns came from, Mr Bridger said it was a very difficult issue which needed to be addressed beyond just a borough level.

34. In terms of imitation firearms, Mr Bridger said they were a definite problem. **He added there were two premises known in Lambeth that sold them, which the police would be looking at.**

35. To Paul Reynolds, Mr Bridger said that while a long debate could be held to discuss whether Operation Hermes exercises were cost effective or successful, they did send out a clear message to those intent on carrying guns in the borough and that the operation was one of a cocktail of tactics. During the first night of the last operation there had been nine arrests, though none for firearms.

36. To Richard Moore, Mr Bridger said that the Brixton Will Be Saved conference had been very useful day and he had learned a great deal.

37. To Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman concerns about drug dealers in the vicinity of KFC and McDonald's, Supt. David Zinzan said that he had an inspector, three sergeants, seventeen constables and nine Police Community Support Officers operating in the town centre alone.

38. However, Supt. Zinzan said that although a small area, it had a 24/7 economy with police also dealing with drug dealers in the market vicinity as well as a number of rough sleepers, drunken behaviour, a crack house, assaults, criminal damage and having to process persons arrested for various offences.

39. Even so, Supt. Zinzan said that he was conscious that in order for people to feel safe in the area police needed to deal with the illegal and anti-social nature of the drug dealing. Although, he added, an independent attitude survey found that following Operation Refresh, people felt safer in Brixton than they did a year and a half ago, while there were a number of operations being carried out at present.

40. In respect of illegal minicabs, Supt. Zinzan said police had already closed down Lucky Cabs and New Scotland Yard (NSY)'s minicab enforcements team had carried out a three day operation and made arrests

41. Mr Bridger said that he would provide a breakdown of resources in each Lambeth police department, e.g. domestic violence, and would provide the Group with any information he could.

42. To John Howard, Mr Bridger said that he was alive as to whether malicious information was given on the guns information telephone line, although he was confident that what he had received was not of that nature.

43. For clarification, Mr Bridger asserted that he had not said there was a deep rooted mistrust of the police throughout London, but only within certain members of the community. In general, he believed trust in the police had improved.

44. Equally, Mr Bridger said that he did not know exactly where Lambeth sat in terms of gun enabled offences compared to other boroughs and had not wished to give the impression that it had the highest number of offences without referring to statistics, which he could provide.

45. To John Wainwright, Mr Bridger said that the licensing department was already looking into the 'drink as much as you like for £10' type of offers in clubs.

46. Mr Bridger said that a strong correlation existed between firearms and crack cocaine, with people arrested with guns often found to be crack users. And while many crack houses have been closed down, intelligence recently received about others opening up were being investigated by Supt. Zinzan and dealt with as quickly as possible.

47. Mr Bridger said that he was unaware that congestion charge (C) traffic wardens had been tasked to come into Lambeth to gather intelligence on vehicles from the borough which entered the (C) zone. **The wardens, Mr Wainwright said, had told him that cars from the borough did not match number plates, owners or addresses, which could provide useful intelligence to Lambeth police. Mr Bridger said he would look into the matter.**

48. A member of the public, David Wilkinson-Carr, said he thought that people who dealt with drugs and carried guns had successfully created and perpetuated a climate of fear by cynically exploiting historical antagonisms between the community and police, and by cynically suggesting that anyone who helped the police was collaborating with the enemy.

49. Mr Bridger agreed that the climate of fear had to be challenged, with the community collectively stating loud and clear that it did not want the gunmen and drug dealers ruling the streets.

50. Mr Bridger agreed with the praise from Mr Moore and Rev. Bowman the excellent work of both Trident and Lambeth police officers in taking guns off the borough's streets

51. In his closing comments on the police report, Paul Andell asked Mr Bridger if he thought that Lambeth police had access to the resources to deal with the number of suspicious reports generated under the Proceeds of Crime Act. For example, whether suspicious reports were generated from large deposits made into bank accounts. If not, the Group needed to think about campaigning for such resources.

52. Mr Bridger said that much of the reports involving the Proceeds of Crime Act were passed onto the Special Crime Directorate at NSY. However, he added that he could not be certain if he had sufficient resources to deal with the workload undertaken by officers on the borough, but could look into it.

52. In respect of the supply of firearms, Mr Andell proposed that police consider a strategy to reduce supply and demand, which need to include accountable enforcement, situational prevention (lighting, metal detection), education (to counter the culture of guns as fashion accessories), work with victims and offenders, and community development (third party reporting).

53. In response, Mr Bridger said that Lambeth police were engaging with various parties to come up with a comprehensive strategy to tackle firearms in the borough, and working with a

wide range of people. However, he added that talking to everyone was time consuming but necessary in order to formulate a long term strategy which the community would sign up to and which would be sustainable.

Information from Group Officers and Members

54. A briefing paper for April had been tabled by the Group Officers.

Minutes of the Meeting 1 March 2005.

55. Minutes of the Meeting 1 March 2005 were accepted without amendment.

Matters Arising from the Minutes 5 March 2005.

56. Mr Bridger had talked extensively about gun crime and his views at the meeting. [Minute 11, 26/03/05]

57. John Howard said that he had not implied that ASBOs had been used against prostitutes in Lambeth. However, on a point of information, Paul Andell said that he believed police had at some time but not recently.

58. Reporting back on a juvenile's lengthy detention at Brixton police station, Supt. Zinzan said the case involved a 14-year old juvenile arrested for a homophobic incident whose parent refused to attend the station. He added that dealing with the youth was further held up due to social services issues. The juvenile had therefore been kept at the station as a place of safety for 36 hours. Supt. Zinzan said that he was satisfied that the police had adhered to guidelines set down by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. [Minute 38, 01/03/05]

59. Supt. Zinzan said that the matter of a PC mobile phone bill had been resolved with no

money having been given over to pay for his bill and officer concerned spoken to. [Minute 44, 01/03/05]

60. Anna Tapsell drew attention to the commitment to revisit Domestic Violence [Minute 103, 01/03/05]. Jim Toohill responded that the action stood and that an appropriate slot was being sought. He also pointed out that all Matters Arising or Action Points were maintained on a Rolling List until they were completed or struck out, and that the list was available to members from the Group Office.

61. John Roberts queried whether the £20,000 referred to in respect of the Smart Water initiative [Minute 19, 01/03/05] had been transferred from Lambeth Council. Richard Moore commented that he believed that this had not yet been done.

Stop and Search Monitoring Group (S&SMG)

62. It was agreed to carry the S&SMG presentation forward.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**6.00 p.m. Tuesday
3 May 2005
Lambeth Accord
336 Brixton Road SW9**

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Consultative Group
for Lambeth**

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Minutes shown in bold italic indicate
action points/matters arising.