

**COMMUNITY-POLICE  
CONSULTATIVE GROUP  
for LAMBETH**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**3 MAY 2005**

**LAMBETH ACCORD  
336 BRIXTON ROAD SW9**

**PRESENT: GROUP OFFICERS**

Paul Andell, Wesley Stephenson  
**Vice-Chairpersons;** Jim Toohill

**Hon. Comptroller;** Rev. Canon

Ivelaw Bowman **AFFILIATED**

**MEMBERS** Doye Akinlade

**Brixton Society;** Pauline Bower

**Churches Together in**

**Clapham;** Greta Brooks

**Churches Together in Brixton;**

Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler

**Clapham Town N'hood Watch;**

David Corderoy **Chamber of**

**Commerce;** David Hart, Ros

Munday **Clapham Community**

**Partnership;** Dr Brian Mantell

**Assoc. of Jewish Ex-**

**Servicemen and Women;** Paul

Reynolds **Herne Hill Society;**

Arulini Velmurugu **Lambeth**

**Towers and Lambeth Road**

**Tenants & Residents Assoc.;**

Abdul Sultan Virani **Lambeth**

**Pensioners' Forum;** David

Tomlinson **Stockwell Park**

**Residents Association;**

George Tuson **Streatham**

**Common Southside N'hood**

**Watch Assoc.;** **INDIVIDUAL**

**MEMBERS** Lena James; Bushy

Kelly; Richard Moore; Cheryl

Sealey; Fernando Senior; Jane

Warwick **PERMANENT**

**MEMBERS** Lloyd Leon

**Lambeth ICV Panel;** Marianna

Tortell **Lambeth Crime**

**Prevention Trust;** Susan

Jacobs **Crown Prosecution**

**Service;** Neil Flanigan **Victim**

**Support Lambeth;** **HM Prison**

**Brixton (Board of Visitors);**

Chris Calnan **MPA;** **SECTOR**

**WORKING GROUPS** John

Wainwright **Clapham CO-**

**OPTED MEMBERS** Gill Kenealy

**LAMBETH COUNCIL** Cllr.

Robert S. McConnell; Khadir  
Meer (Community Safety Team)  
**METROPOLITAN POLICE**

**SERVICE** Ch. Supt. Martin

Bridger, Supt. David Zinzan

(Brixton); Supt. Andy Tarrant

(Acting Head, Community Safety

Team); Supt. Stewart Low

(Vauxhall); Supt. Rick Algar; Ch.

Insp. Nigel Cook; Ch. Insp.

Suzanne Wallace (Community

Partnership); Det. Insp. Dean

Haydon; PC Jack Wilson

**SECRETARIAT**

Ben McKendrick

Members of public/press were  
also present

**Apologies:** Cllr. Charles Anglin;

Victor Brooks; Peter Clapton;

Gary Dando; Sheila Draper; Cllr.

Bernard Gentry; Marie Hennelly;

Rachel Heywood; John

Horrocks; Lee Jasper; Tessa

Jowell MP; Most Rev'd Dr

Bancroft McCarthy; Cllr. Marcus

Mayer; Cllr. Angie Meader;

Josephine Metcalfe; Cllr. Peter

O'Connell; June Pilgrim; John

Podmore (Brixton Prison)

Mehmuda Mian Pritchard IPCC;

John Roberts MPA, Cllr. Darren

Sanders; Cllr. Lydia Serwaa;

Hazel Watson; David Wilson-

Carr.

**Introduction**

1. Paul Andell welcomed the  
family of Hector Watson to the  
meeting and passed on the  
Group's condolences with  
regard to his death. Mr Andell  
also welcomed Chris Calnan  
from the MPA, who was  
attending the meeting in the  
absence of John Roberts

2. Paul Andell asked the Group  
to stand in a minute's silence  
out of respect for Hector  
Watson, a founder Group  
member who had sadly  
passed away on 18 April  
2005.

3. Lloyd Leon paid tribute to  
Hector Watson as a man who  
had served both Jamaica and  
the UK during World War II, and

who since leaving the armed  
services always played a  
constructive role in the  
community. As a founder  
Group member his attendance  
and contribution at Group  
meetings over many years  
had demonstrated his  
selflessness. Mr Leon said  
that he was very sad upon  
the news of Hector's death,  
the news of which he had  
just heard.

4. Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman  
said that people must not  
forget that the people of  
this country, and the world,  
owed a great debt to people  
like Hector Watson, a lion  
who had volunteered to  
fight to preserve the rights  
and privileges we enjoy  
today. He added that  
Hector's spirit of justice  
and sense of fair play had  
become his hallmark at  
Group meetings and that  
cherishing his memory  
would help to secure a  
better future for our  
community.

5. Paul Andell thanked  
Lloyd Leon and Rev. Bowman  
for their contribution and  
said that the group would  
endeavour to inform all  
Group members as soon as  
possible upon learning of  
the death of Group members.

6. The Group accepted the  
application to affiliate to  
the Group from Stockwell  
Park Residents Association  
whose representative David  
Tomlinson was present.

**Lambeth Police Report**

7. Introducing his report,  
Borough Commander Martin  
Bridger said that Lambeth  
had met all of its performance  
reduction targets in the  
last financial year. Mr  
Bridger praised Dick Quinn,  
the former Borough  
Commander, as well as all  
Lambeth police officers and  
those who had worked in  
partnership.

8. Overall, Mr Bridger said  
that the reductions signified  
fewer

victims of crime including 224 fewer victims of street robbery, which had been dropping over the past for years. However, where there were slight increases in victims of domestic violence, race and homophobic crimes, and more rape allegations, Mr Bridger suggested that these were the result of greater confidence in reporting crimes to the police, something which he wished to continue.

9. While detection rates over the past year had generally improved, Mr Bridger said they could still be improved further, and that this was reflected by the demanding targets set for the forthcoming year.

10. Reports of gun crime in the borough had also gone down during the past year while detection had been higher than 2003-2004. The number of firearms recovered in Lambeth in 2004-5 was 187.

11. Although Mr Bridger said that any number of murders on the borough was unacceptable, there had been a significant decrease in the number of incidents compared to the previous year. The results of two separate court cases in the past year had resulted in one male defendant sentenced to thirteen years imprisonment and another acquitted but deported.

12. In relation to the murder of David Morley on the South Bank in October 2004, Mr Bridger said six persons had been charged and a trial was due to take place on 30 October 2005.

13. In relation to the Financial Investigation Unit (FIU), Mr Bridger said that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary had, in 2004, described the FIU in positive terms. In terms of the FIU's results, Mr Bridger said he believed that all the money the FIU managed to confiscate should come back into the

borough to help fight crime: this was not currently the case,

14. With regard to his personal, 24 hour, telephone hotline for intelligence on gun crime, Mr Bridger said that it was not a replacement for Crimestoppers, but another way of engaging with the community.

**15. Mr Bridger said that the first six weeks of the hotline had been so successful that the initiative had been extended for another two months. He added that at the appropriate time he would report back to the Group as much information as he could.**

16. In respect of Operation Hermes, Mr Bridger said that research he had undertaken revealed that while it had led to many arrests for other offences, only one person had been arrested for gun crime and that no firearms had been seized. However, the high visibility policing, disruption to criminal activity and reassurance to the public had also to be taken into consideration.

17. Nevertheless, Mr Bridger said that one had to ask if the operation actually accomplished what it had set out to achieve. In terms of cost effectiveness in this respect, Mr Bridger said he was looking to discuss the issues that arisen in the forthcoming weeks.

18. Lloyd Leon asked for information relating to arrests, charges and convictions of people for drug dealing in the Angel public house, Coldharbour Lane, during the present landlord's tenure and whether any police officers had spoken to the landlord about drug dealing on the premises. Furthermore, he asked what police procedures for arresting people in public houses.

**19. Mr Bridger said that a response to Mr Leon's queries would be prepared for the next meeting.** However, in respect of licensed premises, Mr Bridger added that all proprietors and landlord had been invited to a meeting with him around the standards expected by police and its partners.

20. In response to Paul Reynolds, Mr Bridger said that the current figure of 947 for Lambeth police establishment changed almost daily with personnel coming from and to the borough, although he remained satisfied that the number of officers was at its optimum, while more officers would be welcome. He added that in respect of the extra officers that had been promised for Safer Neighbourhoods, these had, to date, been received.

21. Mr Bridger agreed with Bushy Kelly of the need for to people to report crime in order to better understand issues such as domestic violence. Furthermore, he said that reporting of crime also provided police with the intelligence needed to direct the deployment and activity of officers.

22. In reply to Jim Toohill, Mr Bridger concurred that it was common sense and of value to speak to the Operation Hermes observers for feedback as well as others involved, such as units at New Scotland Yard, to assist a re-evaluation of the exercise.

23. At Mr Toohill's request, Mr Bridger reassured the meeting that he was well aware of the crime issues around Brixton town centre, particularly those pertaining to drug dealing. As such, police, working with its partners, were seeking a long-term sustainable solution.

24. Following a discussion began by Neil Flanigan concerning the use dogs to drive

drug dealers away from schools in Slough, Richard Moore proposed that the Group seek to obtain notification of the Slough operation since the public's views on the use of dogs varied from place to throughout London.

**25.** In relation to the drug markets in Brixton, Paul Andell proposed that it was necessary to first understand the nature of the drugs market, i.e. supply and demand, balanced against appropriate interventions looking at enforcement, situational prevention, education in schools, treatment and community development.

**26.** In response to Marianna Tortell, Supt. Andy Tarrant explained that the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) had sought to take a lead on third party reporting to be rolled out replicated across all London boroughs. Mr Tarrant added that he understood that Insp. Graham Sutherland, the Lambeth lead in this area, had already taken in Ms Tortell's views regarding policy.

**27.** Mr Bridger informed Rev. Bowman that people arrested on suspicion of murder in the Bernier case were on bail because of insufficient evidence. Rev. Bowman asked that his thanks be conveyed to officers investigating the case, particularly the Family Liaison Officer.

**28.** In response to Ros Munday, Mr Bridger reported on an allegation of shots being fired outside the Mass nightclub, St Matthew's, Brixton the previous Saturday night but no bullets had been found.

**29.** Supt. David Zinzan added that police had heard what they believed to be shots but at the scene found no cartridge cases and no witnesses. Police also made hospital checks in

Lambeth and further afield but no victims were found either.

**30.** Supt. Zinzan stated that a great deal of the problems in Brixton at weekends was in the vicinity of the Mass club and he shared the community's concerns. He said that he therefore regularly summoned the club owner to see him, who had assured him that the most recent of the regular Friday night event, which attracted certain types of individuals, had been the last.

**31.** In relation to Brixton market, Supt. Zinzan said that a lot of work had been done to tackle crime although the market's design lent itself to criminality. For example, the awnings rendered CCTV less effective. However, police were liaising with the market traders to change the design, with perhaps fewer stalls.

**32.** With regard to target setting for crime reduction, Mr Bridger said that certain targets were imposed upon him from the centre, even though the community may argue whether that they way to concentrate resources. However, he reiterated that he was prepared to involve the community in the debate for setting local targets in the autumn.

**33.** Responding to Paul Andell, Supt. Stewart Low said that every day police would examine intelligence regarding premises being used for drug dealing, although they may not always be sure whether the drugs being traded were Class A drugs, like crack and heroin, or not. More importantly, Supt. Low added, concern about such premises was largely about the impact they had on the community and as crime generators, and the need to act quickly against them.

## **Stop and Search Monitoring Group (S&SMG)**

**34.** Papers from the S&SMG were circulated with the agenda and tabled at the meeting. Jim Toohill said that there were three elements to the S&SMG report: a "drilling down" into robbery stop and searches; a tracking of stop and searches overall; stop and search work going on across London.

## **Safer Neighbourhoods**

**35.** Ch. Insp. Nigel Cook informed the meeting that, as of 1 April 2005, he had been assigned the role of strategic lead on Safer Neighbourhoods (SNs) in Lambeth.

**36.** Ch. Insp. Cook explained that the SNs began as a recommendation in a government paper *Building Safer Communities Together* in 2002, described as a new era in policing and London's most ambitious and far reaching community safety strategy.

**37.** Mr Cook said that some may see SNs as a re-branding of sector policing and geographic policing, however he maintained that SNs were fundamentally different in the level to which they were resourced and that they operate.

**38.** By 2008, it was expected that every ward in every of London would have a SN in situ, 628 teams, consisting of a Police Sergeant, two Police Constables and three Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

**39.** Ch. Insp. Cook added that the community would have a real say in deciding priorities for their own area i.e. helping police to provide solutions to local problems while maintaining the focus on reducing priority crime issues. As such, tackling anti-social behaviour could also lead

to reducing robbery at the same time.

**40.** Where SNs were already operating, Ch. Insp. Cook said that the 'feel good' factor was returning to the local communities with statistics demonstrating that SNs made an impact on priority crime.

**41.** However, Ch. Insp. Cook expressed the fears of both he and his colleagues that the political will to roll out the SN programme could be too quick for the MPS to sustain it in terms of the number of police officers and PCSOs available to it work. Therefore, as a borough, Lambeth police would roll out SNs as the support for them both in funding and personnel became available.

**42.** Currently, Lambeth had eight SN teams with another five to be established by April 2006. Ch. Insp. Cook said any new programme brought with it challenges, in the case of SNs addressing the selection of wards and the issue of corporacy across the command structure in the borough; adhering to the same programme and the same rules, in order to remain effective and achieve the same ends.

**43.** Ch. Insp. Cook outlined the process for selection of SN Wards as having three main elements:

(1.) To establish the contribution each ward makes, as a proportion, to Lambeth's total crime, nuisance or anti-social behaviour in each of fourteen categories. This is done drawing on police and local partners information systems.

(2.) To establish, through a balloting method, the relative importance ascribed to each of those fourteen types, by a borough-wide panel of stakeholders

(3) Combining measures of *incidence* from (1) with measures of *importance* from

(2), to arrive at an overall ranking of wards.

So, for example, a ward with a high incidence of a crime type which stakeholders rate as being especially serious, will rank highly overall.

**44.** *Ch. Insp. Cook added that at least one member of the CPCG would be invited to take part in the process.*

**45.** One of challenges for the police was identifying personnel for SNs, and Ch. Insp. Cook said that the police would not necessarily want to put new officers in such posts, it being desirable to have some experience and stability. Therefore a balance needs to be struck between retaining skills and feeding the process with experience police officers.

**46.** In relation to the allocation of PCSOs, Ch. Insp. Cook said Lambeth police had a large security commitment on the Southbank, so there was an issue of promoting experienced staff to SNs or draft in new staff.

**47.** Another issue was that of tenure, with the role of being a SN team member not appearing to be a hugely popular job across the MPS. Therefore, to attract the right staff, Ch. Insp. Cook said it may be necessary to incentivise the role by making it a tenured post; not too long, not too short.

**48.** With regard to training for SN panel chairpersons, Ch. Insp. Cook said that working with the MPA he had managed to obtain places on a pilot project. Yet, despite numerous voluntary funding streams specifically for community training, the MPS, not being a charity, were unable to apply. However, Ch. Insp. Cook had proposed using a community based charity to feed into funds on its behalf and secure money for training. As a result, Ch.

Insp. Cook said a charity would hopefully be bidding for money on their behalf, which would enable him to evaluate the pilot.

**49.** Marianna Tortell raised the point of the police seeking through a charitable trust for funding to supply services that they otherwise were legally required to provide, and that the issue should be made more public.

**50.** Ch. Insp. Cook said that in relation to in choosing a mechanism to roll out training in quick time was not a deliberate decision not to consult but was due to the tight timeline of the MPA to have the pilot project evaluated by July 2005.

**51.** In relation to tenure, Bushy Kelly said that if the MPS wanted to increase reporting of crime, then SN officers had to be identifiable, thus approachable. In respect of training for SN panel members, she said it was essential that these too needed to be identifiable people with the trust of the community, figures with the knowledge and experience.

**52.** Furthermore, Ms Kelly said that if the Group was to be sidelined in favour of outside consultants or community groups that did not have the community's trust the SN panels would not work.

**53.** Wesley Stephenson said that from the Group's point of view, the compressed timeframe for SN panels had squeezed the Group out of the consultation process.

**54.** Mr Bridger said that when he arrived in the Lambeth there were already three SNs in place. However, since then Lambeth police had decided to establish specific criteria for the remainder involving consultation, such as with the Group. Once applied to ward selection the police would go to the Council and inform

Councillors how each ward had been ranked. However, Mr Bridger said that he took the Mr Stephenson's point regarding concerning the level of consultation but felt police needed to present to the community a process.

**55.** In respect of the local panels being developed, Mr Bridger said that the idea was that each local SN team would be accountable to its panel. The role of the officers would involve responsibility for their ward and, for example, would be the lead officers on the ward should there be information about a crack house, receiving support from the borough police, as well as a wide range of local issues.

**56.** With regard to the police being driven by timescales, Mr Bridger said that it was not only the MPA but a wider political agenda that wanted the SNs in place in good time.

**57.** In response to Rev. Bowman's comments regarding the need to recognise that not many people understood management speak, Ch. Insp. Cook apologised if his language had sounded obscure or inappropriate and by, for example, his use of the word "corporacy" he was referring to commonality of practice and operations within Lambeth.

**58.** Ros Munday expressed her support for SNs but raised concerns about the absence of partnership issues raised in the presentation, particularly housing, Ch. Insp. Cook said that it had been a shorter version of a longer presentation due to time available on the agenda. However, he added that one of the issues police were looking to address was that of promoting a champion for SNs, and whether Lambeth has, or wishes to have, someone leading the way in terms of their approach to SNs.

**59.** Paul Andell said that Ros Munday had raised the point of need for a more strategic response to local issues, which, in this instance, needed to be focused at Lambeth Housing Directorate.

**60.** In pushing through SNs, which Mr Bridger said that, while he fully supported the concept, nobody had thought through the impact that they would have on the ability of local authorities to deliver. He added that he was aware of the challenges ahead and he was trying to educate people in the Council about their joint responsibilities.

**61.** In response to Sue Jacobs' query regarding training given to SN team officers, Ch. Insp. Cook said there was bespoke training for officers and PCSOs assigned to SN team with follow up training to reinforce what they were expected to deliver.

**62.** Jim Toohill said that while he thought the SN presentation was very good, it did come across as a corporate presentation expressing what the MPS was going to do "to" the community of Lambeth. However, Mr Toohill said the strength in SNs was in what the local communities could do "to" the local police and in being bottom-up, open and accessible. In the latter sense, he said that the Group would go out of its way to support the initiative, but at the present time few people knew what SNs were, who represented them or how they could be contacted.

**63.** In relation to the ranking of SN wards, Mr Toohill said the Group had not as yet participated but would be happy and willing to send out copies of surveys to its members and others on its mailing list. Furthermore, Mr Toohill said he hoped the next SN presentation would be led, with all due respect, by someone from a SN panel as well as a police officer.

**64.** Since neither Ferndale nor Coldharbour Lane SN team operated in Brixton town centre, Mr Toohill suggested that something needed to be put in place there, perhaps a Safer Town Centre team and Panel. Although community input used to be covered by the Crime Working Group of Brixton Area Forum, which did tremendous work under Rachel Heywood, this had not met since October 2004.

**65.** In response to Paul Reynolds, Ch. Insp. Cook said that a corporate approach in relation to ward and borough boundaries was a live issue raised by Lambeth, Southwark and Croydon police. As such, a meeting with the MPS lead on SN was to be held in the forthcoming week to explore options for cross border working in those areas where it would be common sense for cross border teams to deal with localised issues.

**66.** In response to Gill Kenealy, Mr Bridger said that one of the first things he sought to discover upon coming to Lambeth was which agencies were involving themselves in issues of gun and gang culture, and, as a result of a three month review, a critical, internal, Lambeth police report had just been completed. Amongst the findings, Mr Bridger said that out of thirteen secondary schools, police were only engaging with four of them. Furthermore, he added that there was an insufficient number of adequately resourced youth workers in the borough.

**67.** On the question of gun crime and related youth gang issues, Mr Bridger said that there were various people going into schools delivering different and sometimes misleading messages. At the same time, Mr Bridger added that recent local research revealed a pattern of a criminal lifestyle developing from truancy,

suspension and exclusion from school to minor criminal offences to offences involving knives and guns. Yet while this process could begin from as early as eight years, Mr Bridger said the police had no meaningful contact with junior schools in Lambeth.

**68.** Mr Bridger said he had recently spoken with Faith Boardman, Lambeth Council Chief Executive, about how to take the report forward and move towards a consultation process, that would lead to a joined up, coordinated, holistic, sustainable solutions. Mr Bridger added that as one of the strategic partners overseeing £280,000 set aside for gun and gang intervention in Lambeth he would not spend any money until such was the case.

**69.** In response to Rev. Bowman concerns about how money was accounted for on spending for such initiatives aimed at gun crime, Mr Bridger said that audit trails in relation to money spent was very much part of the Lambeth police report on guns and gangs.

**70.** In response to members' queries about how the police saw the Group's role in light of the establishment of SNs, Mr Bridger said that, in all honesty, in and above thinking and consultation around critical incidents, he did not yet know how he saw himself utilising the Group or how things were going to move forward. He added that he needed to think about it a lot more and come back to the Group with some clarity how the Group and police should work together.

**71.** In reply to Pauline Bower, Jim Toohill said that there was indeed a letter from Len Duvall, Chair of the MPA, to the Chairs of CPCGs London-wide, stating that the MPA wanted a new relationship with boroughs and change the way it dealt with

consultation across London, whether or not it involved CPCGs in the form they were presently in.

**72.** However, at the same time, the MPA was supporting the Group to develop a new, post Scarman, model. The Group, therefore had to have the confidence with what had to offer in order to move forward. If the Group did not have that confidence itself, then it could not expect it from elsewhere. As such, it meant the Group needed to work differently and demonstrate that it was just as relevant today as we over twenty years ago by keeping up with the times.

**73.** Mr Bridger notified the Group that he would be in attendance at the next Group meeting as he would be out of the country. Supt Stewart Low would present the Lambeth Police Report.

#### **Information from Group Officers and Members**

**74.** A briefing sheet for the month of May from the Group Officers was tabled.

**75.** Jane Warwick reported that she and Lloyd Leon had visited former Group Vice-Chairperson Maurice Smith and his wife at the residential care home where they were staying.

#### **Minutes of the Meeting 5 April 2005**

**76.** Minutes of the meeting 5 April 2005 were accepted without amendment.

#### **Matters Arising from the Minutes 5 April 2005.**

**77.** The Group had received the presentation on Safer Neighbourhoods [Minute 25, 05/04/05].

**78.** Police were still examining forensic evidence in relation to the murder of Victoria Adu Mensah [Minute 28, 05/04/05].

**79.** Richard Moore said the shop that sold imitation firearms at Crystal Palace had closed [Minute 34, 05/04/05].

**80.** Mr Bridger had provided the Group Office with a breakdown of resources in each Lambeth police department, which was currently being summarised [Minute 41, 05/04/05]

**81. *Richard Moore asked that Minute 61, 05/04/05, regarding the Council's contribution to the Smart Water initiative be pursued.***

#### **Any Other Business**

**82.** It was agreed to establish whether it was true that the emergency clinics at the Maudsley and Landor Road were closing

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**6.00 p.m. Tuesday  
7 June 2005  
Christ Church  
90-94 Brixton Road SW9**

**Community-Police  
Consultative Group  
for Lambeth**

**1st Floor, International House  
Canterbury Crescent, London  
SW9 7QE**

**Telephone: 020 7733 0878**

**Group Meeting Information  
Line: 020 7274 7623**

**E-mail  
[admin@lambethcpcg.org.uk](mailto:admin@lambethcpcg.org.uk)**

---

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