

**COMMUNITY-POLICE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP
for LAMBETH**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

4 OCTOBER 2005

**LAMBETH ACCORD
336 BRIXTON ROAD SW9**

PRESENT: GROUP OFFICERS Paul Andell, Wesley Stephenson **Vice-Chairpersons**; Jim Toohill **AFFILIATED MEMBERS** Nick Abengowe **Herne Hill Forum**; Doye Akinlade **Brixton Society**; Greta Brooks **Churches Together in Brixton**; Rod Brown **Lambeth Leaseholders Council**; Wally Channon **Clapham Town N'hood Watch**; David Corderoy **Lambeth Chamber of Commerce**; Gary Dando **CressBrock N'hood Watch**; Stuart Horwood, John Gordon **Brixton Market Traders Assoc.** Paul Reynolds **Herne Hill Society**; David Tomlinson **Stockwell Park Residents Assoc.**; Arulini Velmurugu **Lambeth Towers and Lambeth Road T&R Assoc.**; **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS** Lena James; Gill Kenealy; Richard Moore; Cheryl Sealey, Fernando Senior; Anna Tapsell; Jane Warwick **PERMANENT MEMBERS** Neil Flanigan **Victim Support Lambeth**; Lloyd Leon **Lambeth ICV**; Jean Carpenter, Marianna Tortell, Yvonne Okiyo **Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust**; John Roberts, **MPA SECTOR WORKING GROUPS** John Wainwright **Clapham CO-OPTED MEMBERS** Shane Collins, Gill Kenealy **LAMBETH COUNCIL** Chris Lee, Asst. Ch. Exec; Cllr. Robert S. McConnell; Cllr. Peter O'Connell; Cllr. Angie Meader; Supt. Andy Tarrant **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** Ch. Supt. Martin Bridger; Supt. Stewart Low (Kennington), Supt. Rick Algar; Ch. Insp. Suzanne Wallace (Community Safety); Det. Insp. Dean Haydon; PC Jack Wilson **SECRETARIAT** Ben McKendrick

Apologies: Rev. Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Cllr. Bernard Gentry, Marie Hennelly, John Horrocks, Lee Jasper, Bushy Kelly, Mehmda Mian Pritchard, John Podmore, Sally Rance, Cllr. Darren Sanders, Insp. Tim Scott, Michael Somers, Abdul Sultan Virani, Peggy Tyler, Supt. David Zinzan, Dr Brian Mantell

Introduction

1. Paul Andell welcomed Steve Ainscough who was to give a presentation on the National Intelligence Model, and Chris

Lee, the Assistant Chief Executive of Lambeth Council.

2. Chris Lee said he had been given the portfolio for community safety and he would be attending Group meetings in the future. Mr Lee informed the Group that a new Head of the Community Safety Team, Simon Harding, formerly of the Government Office for London, had been appointed to take over from the acting-Head, Supt. Andy Tarrant.

3. Mr Lee said that he would be happy to go through his action plan at a future meeting.

4. John Wainwright informed Mr Lee that the Group had over many years lobbied the Council to invest more in youth provision.

Information from Group Officers and Members

5. Paul Andell referred to the tabled October Briefing for information from Group officers.

6. Gary Dando was congratulated after announcing that CressBrock Neighbourhood Watch had received an award from the Nationwide Building Society, enabling them to donate £500 to charity and £150 to the Disability Advice Service.

7. Pauline Bower commented on the voting system for the AGM elections, which she said had a disproportionate number of Board places for Individual Members (5 places from 18 Individual Members, including 3 Co-opted) to Community and Voluntary Organisations (4 places from 29 organisations).

8. Jim Toohill explained that while the Group had already discussed the proposals at length at previous meetings, the balance between Individual, Community and Voluntary, and Statutory members had been suggested by the Group's lawyers; on the basis that the Group's history showed that

Individual Members had contributed most to the running of the Group i.e. they had the most time and energy to make things happen. Moreover, as the Group proved its worth, we hope to see the number of Individual Members greatly increase.

9. However, Mr Toohill added that it was a matter that could be changed at a future date if experience so indicated. Furthermore, he said that if the Board was unresponsive to the Group's will, the Group could vote the Board out.

10. In response to John Howard, Paul Andell said that his comments on the Group's constitution in relation to individual membership were for another place.

11. In response to Gary Dando and Richard Moore respectively, ***Paul Andell said that he would pass on the Group's best wishes concerning Supt. David Zinzan's son's health and congratulations upon Supt. Zinzan's promotion.***

Application to Affiliate/Change in Representation

12. Group members approved the application submitted by Your Story to affiliate to the Group.

13. The application to affiliate from CEN was deferred until a future meeting when the CEN representative would be present.

14. Paul Andell announced that Victim Support had made a change in representation, and that Jim Toohill would be the deputy representative for Victim Support Lambeth.

Matters Arising from the Minutes 7 July 2005 (Carried Forward from 6 September}

15. Gary Dando had been provided with report back on levels of crime in Tulse Hill

[Minute 14, 07/06/05], which he said not improved.

16. On the matter of using victimless prosecutions for domestic violence offences in Lambeth [Minute 14, 05/07/05], Jim Toohill said he had been given an undertaking from Sue Jacobs that she would report back to the Group on the matter and also on the question of the out-of-hours issue.

17. In relation to Lee Jasper's recommendation that the police monitor homophobic attacks around Clapham Common [Minute 49, 07/06/05], Ch. Supt. Martin Bridger said that this was done on a daily basis. Jim Toohill reminded the Group that the request for the monitoring had been born out of an article in the SLP, about which many at the time were concerned could attract those with a homophobic outlook to the area.

18. In relation to forming a working group to look into the issue of hate crime against disabled people [Minute 18, 05/07/05], **Paul Andell advised Arulini Velmurugu and Gary Dando to meet with John Roberts outside the meeting to discuss the matter further.**

19. With regard to the monitoring the rollout of Safer Neighbourhoods (SNs) [Minute 44, 03/05/05], Paul Andell said that this was ongoing and being looked into by the Group Officers.

20. Richard Moore said that in the South London Press the Borough Commander of Southwark was cited as saying that Southwark would have a Safer Neighbourhood team in every ward by April 2006. On the basis of that being true, Mr Moore queried whether Lambeth was lagging behind.

21. In respect of the rollout of Safer Neighbourhood teams, Mr Bridger said that more money had been made available by the

Mayor of London. As such, the original commitment to have teams in every ward by 2007/8 had been brought forward so that by March 2007 each Lambeth ward would have its own Safer Neighbourhood team. Mr Bridger said no further teams would be rolled out until April 2006, due to financial constraints, and it would be within the financial year 2006/7 that Southwark would have receive its full complement of Safer Neighbourhood teams.

22. Doye Akinlade confirmed that [Minute 42, 05/07/05] one of the three private interview rooms in the front office at Brixton Police Station had been furnished with a chair.

23. John Howard said that Minute 15, 05/07/05 was incomplete and did not record all that he said. Jim Toohill responded by saying that the minutes were not intended to be *verbatim* or anything near.

Minutes of the Meeting 6 September 2005

24. Minutes of the Meeting 6 September were accepted with the following amendment: Add Cllr. Lydia Serwaa to those present.

Matters Arising from the Minutes 6 September 2005

25. In respect of Lambeth Council's contribution to the Smart Water initiative [Minute 61, 05/04/05], Supt. Andy Tarrant said that while the Council had not made a payment, he was in dialogue with the Housing Directorate which was looking to find the money to fund it. Richard Moore, however, said it was almost a year ago that the £20,000 was supposed to have been forthcoming and it should not be taking the Council so long to pay such a "piddling amount."

26. David Tomlinson said that it had not been made clear in police publicity for the free issue of Smart Water that one had to make an entry on a database in order to be able to have stolen property tracked, and for it to remain operational after the first year an annual subscription of over £35 had to be paid. On the other hand, Mr Tomlinson said that the police did have for free UV pens for marking property.

27. Supt. Tarrant said that the literature issued by police was material produced by Smart Water. However, having already recognised Mr Tomlinson's point, police had started their own database, held in the police station, and there was no requirement for people to sign up every year.

28. Mr Bridger had provided Lee Jasper with a copy of the action plan for the anti- Operation Maximus [Minute 9, 06/09/05].

29. In relation to statistics for crimes committed against disabled people [Minute 17, 06/09/05], Gary Dando said that not supplying the information was in violation of the DDA and he insisted that it must be made available for future meetings.

30. Mr Bridger said that figures concerning the detection rate for domestic violence and their outcomes [Minute 19, 06/09/05] would be included in his police report.

31. In response to Wesley Stephenson's request for information about the influence of alcohol on offences of violence against the person, robbery and snatches [Minute 22, 06/09/05], Mr Bridger said the relationship was not recorded as a separate matter but that alcohol was not considered a major factor in such crimes.

32. With regard to the Mr Bridger's gun report [Minute 27,

06/09/05], Paul Andell advised members who sought a copy to contact Mr Bridger.

33. In relation to Cmdr. Broadhurst providing data on Section 44 [Minute 60, 06/09/05], Paul Andell said that he understood this work was being carried out. Lloyd Leon expressed his concerns about Section 44 of the Terrorism Act and its use, particularly as demonstrated by the removal and detention of an elderly man at a Labour Party conference. ***Paul Andell said that if the Group wished, an item could be placed on the agenda for a future meeting with regard to the standard operating procedures for Section 44.***

34. Mr Bridger said that his officers had not been given any specific direction concerning Section 44, and what had taken place at the Brighton conference in relation to a policing response was a matter for the Brighton police.

35. Paul Reynolds said that at the last meeting Cmdr. Broadhurst had given a justification for the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes in that he gave a profile of the victim, at which point the Chair should have intervened as the Group had not been allowed to discuss the issue or ask questions. He added that there had been further disclosures from New Scotland Yard giving further justification for the shooting, in that Mr Menezes movements led the police to believe he was a terrorist. Mr Reynolds said that the matter was either *sub judice* or not and that there should be a challenge to the further detrimental leakage of information about Mr Menezes.

36. Jim Toohill reminded the meeting that the Independent Police Complaints Authority (IPCC) had set up a Community Reference Group (CRG) comprising of representatives from the Latin Front, Refugee

Council, the Muslim Safety Forum and Lambeth CPCG, which had met with the IPCC five times since August.

37. Mr Toohill said that the CRG had pressed for the Kratos policy to be included in the IPCC Investigation's terms of reference and that the IPCC hoped to have direct input from its own inquiries into a separate evaluation of Kratos policy, which was being undertaken by the Association of Chief Police Officers, which itself would have community input.

38. Mr Toohill added that a concern which was recurrently vented in community meetings was not only the issue of an innocent man being shot but the wider issue of the operation of the Kratos policy. Mr Toohill said the community would not be best pleased if any future criminal or disciplinary process were prejudiced by leaks now taking place, wheresoever they came from. He added that people in Lambeth were familiar with the practice of unofficial briefing from within Scotland Yard.

39. In reference to the role of Safer Neighbourhoods in providing intelligence [Minute 46, 06/09/05], Stuart Horwood said that Brixton Market Traders Association would be keen to give positive support when investigating future problems, similarly involving intelligence, notably for the sake of good practice and partnership work.

40. In response to Neil Flanigan's question on the proactivity of police in dealing with race hate crime and how issues were resolved, Paul Andell said that Lambeth had recently employed an Anti-Race Hate Crime Co-coordinator and race hate crime would be an agenda item at a future meeting that would take into consideration enforcement, situational prevention, education,

community development and victim/perpetrator mediation.

Lambeth Police Report

41. Borough Commander Martin Bridger gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lambeth Police performance (see attached) and gave the following responses.

42. In answer to Arulini Velmurugu's question concerning statistics for crimes against disabled persons, Mr Bridger said that any reported crime against a disabled person was obviously recorded but was not in a searchable field on the police system, and to provide accurate statistics would require a manual search of the database.

43. Insp. Dean Hayden said that to gather the statistics would mean having to trawl through thousands of crime reports. Gary Dando said that, nonetheless, disabled people had the right to the information and that he wanted it as of immediate effect. If it was not forthcoming he said he would refer the matter to the Disability Rights Commission.

44. For clarity, Mr Bridger said that whilst he was not offering any excuses for the difficulties in retrieving such data, it was a MPS-wide issue that perhaps needed to be addressed. He added that although he could not change data retrieval systems locally he would be happy to take up the matter with the MPS on behalf of the Group.

45. John Roberts said that the matter was something that had been brought up by the Disabled Person Independent Advisory Group and the MPA was looking at forms and formats as well as victim statistics. However, at the moment there was no clear indication of how to report crimes against disabled people. ***Mr Roberts said would keep the group informed of progress.***

46. Arulini Velmurugu said that many disabled persons did not report crimes against them because of the way they were treated in society more generally and were afraid to come out of their homes.

47. In response to Marianna Tortell, Mr Bridger said that domestic violence involving firearms were picked up both as gun crimes and domestic violence offences.

48. In response to Anna Tapsell, Mr Bridger said that detection rates in relation to domestic violence were improving. At present, Lambeth police were handling 24 live cases that were awaiting hearings at court. Four had been finalised, three of which were successful outcomes with one withdrawn by the CPS.

49. Mr Bridger reported that two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) working at Brixton had been charged with criminal offences and had appeared at court entering a not guilty plea.

50. In response to Pauline Bower, ***Mr Bridger said that details of the Lambeth Anti-social Behaviour co-coordinator could be obtained and circulated amongst the Group.***

51. To Rod Brown, Mr Bridger said that gun crimes reported in which no firearm was seen, but which victims and witnesses believed had been used in perpetrating a crime, remained as recorded firearms incidents for statistical purposes. However, Mr Bridger agreed that it could give a distorted view of the extent of gun crime in the community.

52. In response to Kelly ben Maimon, Mr Bridger said that CO19 firearms officers were deployed in Lambeth fairly regularly, and if it was matter for the Group to decide if wanted to

receive data on those times they were deployed.

53. In respect of lead officers and partners in Lambeth Council, Mr Bridger said this information could be made available. In relation to Lambeth Strategic Partnership meetings, Richard Moore added that they were largely open to the public apart from a sometimes small amount of confidential business.

54. With regard to CCTV on Myatts Field Estate, Mr Bridger said that Council funded repairs had commenced following damage some months earlier. On the question of whether he thought CCTV was beneficial, Mr Bridger said terrorist events over the summer had demonstrated its success. Locally, however, he added there were some discrepancies in the quality of images, although overall it had helped Lambeth with wonderful successes.

55. Mr Bridger said that no extra police officers were being made available in expectation of potential disorder following changes in licensing laws, but extra officers in Lambeth, for example, were being made available through the rollout of Safer Neighbourhoods.

56. In response to Shane Collins' assertion that the licensing of cannabis cafes might contribute to a reduction in gun crime, Mr Bridger said that many people carried guns for reasons other than their connection with drug crime, and that early intervention and diversion of young people from becoming involved with firearms was necessary to address that possible link. He added, however, that many of the gun crime offences in Lambeth had no connection with drugs.

57. In response to Gill Kenealy's query about the gang intervention programme Supt. Tarrant said that £300,000 had

been found this year from neighbourhood renewal funding. Managed by the Youth Offending Team, many different projects involving voluntary groups in Lambeth had been commissioned to divert young people away from guns and other criminal activity. An evaluation of the programme would be available in January or February 2006.

58. In response to a member of the public regarding drug dealing in the Brixton market area, Mr Bridger said that he was seeking to find whether there was any neighbourhood renewal money to be found in order to undertake an in-depth analysis of all the problems, with a view to engaging with everyone from the outset in finding a long-term, sustainable reduction in drug activity.

59. In response to John Howard, Mr Bridger said that the implementation of Section 44 to be as a result of specific intelligence and required the authorisation of a Deputy Assistant Commissioner. With regard to gun crime, Mr Bridger said that on average there were four incidents per week in Lambeth and that the recent percentage increase was relatively small. In terms of pursuing a reduction in gun crime, Mr Bridger said he believed that he was engaged in talks with the right people.

60. In response to Wesley Stephenson, Mr Bridger said that he had not heard of proposals in Scotland that would allow police to search anyone suspected of carrying a knife, nor, as such, of any plans that the MPS would follow suit.

61. In response to member of the public Mr Bridger said that a number of factors other than street crime contributed to the issue of feeling safe in the Brixton market area.

62. In response to Cllr. Peter O'Connell, Chris Lee said that the only commitments made following the gun crime conference had, so far, been to work with the police, other agencies and community and voluntary groups, to properly analyse the problem and to seek the resources to tackle the issues in a sustainable way. Mr Lee said that he already briefed the leader and deputy leader of the Council of the outcomes of the conference and they were very supportive.

63. At the next meeting of the Gun Crime Project Board on 17 October, Mr Lee said that they would start to develop the intervention projects for which they will want to seek funding. He added that there was a strong commitment within the Council's political administration.

National Intelligence Model

64. Steve Ainscough gave a PowerPoint presentation on the National Intelligence Model (see attached), an intelligence led "national policing model" adopted throughout the country. Mr Ainscough gave the following responses to questions.

65. In response to Fernando Senior, Mr Ainscough said that with youth backed initiatives a business case was necessary, and that before anything was undertaken, whether to deal with street crime or a serious incident, it would quite often involve community engagement, as well as monitoring afterwards.

66. In relation to drug dealing in the town center, Mr Ainscough said the police would be happy to receive information from anyone and address the matter, being mindful of protecting sources of information.

67. In response to Kelly ben Maimon, Mr Ainscough said that the police were willing to pay people who were prepared to

come forward with intelligence and put their names to being the source of information.

68. In answer to John Howard, Mr Ainscough said that the National Intelligence Model had been in place for around 18 eighteen months. He added that the police intelligence analysis considered information across the board from the seemingly irrelevant to the more incriminating.

Any Other Business

69. Stuart Horwood said that for many years Brixton market had a regular, uniform beat, which was disbanded a couple of years ago and incorporated into a wider town centre police patrol. Since then, Brixton market had witnessed an increase in anti-social behaviour and a weakening of Brixton market traders' faith in the police. Recently, Mr Horwood said there had been a high police presence in Electric Avenue, which he thought was now unnecessarily high given the efforts the traders had made to clear the walkways.

70. Mr Horwood therefore advised that the return of two police officers on regular patrol would be quite sufficient and restore the lost faith. If such an idea was trialed, Mr Horwood said the Brixton Market Traders would appreciate good cooperation with all groups and departments interested.

71. Mr Bridger said that police needed to do a lot more in respect of Brixton market, pointing out that nine drug dealers had been arrested at the weekend, a matter which perhaps needed to be fed back to the community more regularly.

72. Paul Reynolds proposed that the Group revisit the policy of being softly, softly on the use of police sniffer dogs to combat drug coming through Brixton tube station to disrupt the supply and demand. However, it was

pointed out that police already used passive drug dogs, which had led to the recent arrests in the market.

73. Lloyd Leon concurred with the idea of a dedicated market beat saying that in the past officers knew the market traders and could easily communicate with them, earning their trust and confidence, which led to the gathering of the intelligence that police sought.

74. Shane Collins asked if the request by the market traders could be made more forcefully as it seemed the police were not overly keen on the idea. However, Mr Bridger said that the police had concentrated on putting police in the market area since he had arrived but it had only led to displacement of drug dealers, particularly towards Saltoun Road but also further field. Mr Bridger reiterated his view that the issue had to be examined closely and a more holistic strategy devised.

75. While Paul Andell proposed that the issue be brought back to the next meeting, in order that what was happening in the market could be monitored, Cllr. O'Connell suggested that it would be best to wait until Supt. Zinzan was back on duty, since he was very keen to deal with the matter.

76. Jim Toohill commented that the relationship, in the past, between the traders and the police beat in market appeared to be similar to that which was being sought with Safer Neighbourhoods. Mr Toohill reiterated the Group's view that Brixton town centre needed something in place similar to the ward Safer Neighbourhood teams and panels.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**6.00 p.m. Tuesday
1 November 2005
Lambeth Accord**

336 Brixton Road SW9

* Minutes in ***bold italic*** indicate action points