

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
of the meeting of the  
**LEWISHAM POLICE/COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

which was open to the press and public, held on  
**TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2003**

at 7pm

COMMITTEE ROOMS 1 & 2, CIVIC SUITE,  
LEWISHAM TOWN HALL, CATFORD SE6 4RU

Members

Asquith Gibbes (Chair)  
Councillor Peggy Fitzsimmons (Vice Chair)  
Jim Dowd MP  
Councillor Jackie Addison  
Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye  
Chief Supt Archie Torrance  
Supt Annette Wightman  
Chief Insp Alan Horton  
Chief Insp David Brady  
Loulou Pearce  
Bob Hodgson  
Mahmuda Kabir  
Mrs B Raymond  
Gordon Glean  
G Oshevire  
Terri Foulis  
Ralph Harding  
Trevor Jones /Shelagh Fitzpatrick  
Val Young  
Hannah Baneth  
Carolynne Batley  
Rose Davidson  
Gloria Copeland  
Janice Gushway  
Sinna Mani  
Joan Coulson  
Ken Maxton  
William Tutt  
Alma Hunt

Present

Lewisham College  
L B Lewisham  
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L B Lewisham  
Borough Commander, MPS  
MPS  
Borough Liaison Officer, MPS  
British Transport Police  
Association of Sri Lankans in UK  
Lewisham Lesbian & Gay Panel  
Lewisham Anti Racist Organisation  
Moonshot Phoenix Youth Club  
Lewisham Town Centre Management  
African Welfare Organisation  
Bellingham & Downham SWG  
Lewisham SWG  
Deptford SWG  
Victim Support  
Pepys Community Forum  
LAPD  
Independent Custody Visitor  
Race Equality Action for Lewisham  
Lean on Me Youth and Family Centre  
Lewisham West Green Party  
Colonnades & Terrace TRA  
Milford Towers TRA  
Engleheart, Shorndean & Sportsbank TRA  
Sydenham Society & Sydenham  
& Forest Hill Community Action Group

Also present

Asst Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur	MPS
Chief Insp Nick Hallett	MPS
DCI S Cunneen	MPS
DI Kevin Imber	MPS
Councillor Barrie Anderson	L B Lewisham
Steve Harrison	Crime Reduction Service
Sue Mead	Bromley Racial Equality Council

Sybil Phoenix MBE  
H Rahwell  
Vulong Nguyen  
Kevin Haggarty  
Pauline Blackwood  
Martin Penny  
Richard Morrison  
Zara Bishop  
Paul Newing  
Denton Christie  
Fay Blake  
Kim Blake  
Jenny Beckford

Marsha Phoenix Trust  
Engleheart, Shorndean & Sportsbank  
Lewisham Vietnamese Community  
KHMC Assoc  
Lewisham Anti Racist Action Group  
Lewisham College  
“  
South London Press  
Member of public  
“  
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### Apologies

Joan Ruddock MP, Councillor Susan Wise, Councillor Gurbakhsh Garcha, Julia Smith, Cecile Wright, Solomon Brown, Janet Logan, Alan Hooton, David Michael, Thomas Joseph, Angela Slaven

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Asquith Gibbes welcomed people to the meeting, and congratulated Chief Supt Archie Torrance on his first year in the role of Borough Commander.

He said that he was especially pleased that Asst Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur has been available to address the meeting. He said that Asst Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur was the DAC in South East area five years ago, and had links with Lewisham. He said that he was pleased to see officer of his calibre from ethnic minorities promoted to senior ranks in the MPS.

1. **PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE SPECIALIST  
CRIME DIRECTORATE**

Asst Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said it was important for senior police officers to meet community members so that together we can work towards making London safer.

He said that there are 2,600 police officers in the Specialist Crime Directorate, 1,700 police staff and a budget of £249 a year, which is 10% of the MPS, budget. He said that 99% of the work is for London. The directorate deals with:

- ❖ all murders from beginning to end
- ❖ serious gun crime
- ❖ commercial armed robbery
- ❖ Trident shootings affecting either black victims or perpetrators in London
- ❖ international agencies on importation of Class A drugs
- ❖ children as victims and any aspect of child protection
- ❖ Paedophile activity using the internet and/or those living in London
- ❖ economic crime ie major fraud and public sector fraud
- ❖ organised crime within distinct communities ie new communities in London, where the victims and perpetrators come from the same communities ie kidnapping
- ❖ all forensics for London from burglary to anti terrorism
- ❖ Crime Academy training detectives.

He said that there are 200 murders a year in London, which compares to New York which had 600 murders. 97% of the 200 murders are by people who know each other and stranger murders are unusual, whereas in New York 33% are stranger murders. A quarter of the murders are domestic murders which is lower than any other major city in the UK mostly due to prevention work. 40% of the murders are related to knives. Firearms murders last year were 19% and this year 12%.

The new trend is an increase of 15% in murders involving new communities.

Murder involving people who have some element involving mental illness has increased.

Chief Supt Archie Torrance added that there was one weekend with three murders in Lewisham, which was extremely unusual. In one case a brother stabbed his sibling, in another case a son murdered his mother. In both cases arrests were made quickly. In the third case a door supervisor was attacked outside the Rising Sun Public House, for which someone has been charged.

## MINUTE

## ACTION

He said that these events were unusual and Lewisham is mostly safe. He said that it could be difficult to stop things happening in families.

### Gun Crimes

Assist Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said that there is 0.02% of crime in London involves guns but that it disproportionately accounts for fear in communities. People's perception is different to reality. Some people report gunshot where it often is not the case. Overall gun crime has reduced by 7.3% year on year. Gun crime involving business has reduced by 38%. Intelligence and the business community have targeted areas at risk. Trident shootings are down 2.4%. Trident shootings mostly happen in Hackney, Haringey and Brent. Enforcement action and building partnerships to tackle together gun crime has led to the reduction. Previously there was a 15% detection rate but since working with communities and witness protection schemes the current detection rate is 87%. More police officers are deployed to firearms incidents.

He was pleased to report that four major gun factories had been taken out in recent months. He said that imitation and converted weapons are a problem and easily obtainable through the internet.

### Drugs

Assist Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said that drugs are an increasing problem as the world enforcement agencies are concentrating on terrorism, and therefore supply of drugs has increased. In Hackney 60/70% of crime is related to drug activity.

The MPS will work with Customs to set up a drugs team in order to prevent importation and disrupt supplies. Increasingly synthetic drugs are used in the social scene.

### Children as Victims

Since Victoria Climbié's death the knowledge of such crimes has increased. There has been a 9% increase in physical abuse and neglect, and cruelty cases have increased by 29%.

There has been a 5% decrease in sexual offences.

## MINUTE

## ACTION

The police operation to detect paedophiles has dealt with 600 people so far. Internet paedophiles are getting younger and on average age 23 years old. Regulation of the internet will be improved.

The police are dealing with some historical abuse cases ie 10/15 years ago which are difficult to investigate and get through the judicial process. As Social Services improve their structures and an increased number of police officers work on sexual offences it is likely that more incidents will be reported. There are 2,800 live cases in London at the moment.

Unaccompanied children arriving at airports average 300 a week. There is concern that some children are being exploited.

### Economic and Public Sector Crime

The Proceeds of Crime Act allows money to be taken from criminals. £7m has been recovered since January. Dysfunctional role models in communities will be targeted and their assets taken from them. Currently all of the money goes to the Treasury but the MPS would like some returned to boroughs for investigations, and secondly a contribution towards community activities.

There has been a growth in cash only businesses ie car wash and sex shops which are money laundering operations. There was a £23m Colombian drug operation, £17m of which went out of London through money exchanges and a front.

He said that fraud does not show up as an MPS priority, but London is losing billions through cheque card fraud, attacks on the banking system and money laundering etc.

### Organised Crime in Distinct Communities

On occasion after their immigration status has not been sorted out, people either go to immigration lawyers or if they cannot get cash and want to remain in England they become vulnerable. Criminals come to London from parts of Europe and exploit the criminal market, and vulnerable people. The police hope to disrupt activity but the problem could increase in unestablished communities. He said that some communities are difficult to engage.

## MINUTE

## ACTION

### Other Units

Asst Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur spoke about

- ❖ the Specialist Arts and Antiques
- ❖ Wildlife Crime Unit
- ❖ Stolen Vehicle Unit, which deals with organised vehicle crime often stolen to order
- ❖ Public Order Investigation Unit

He said that the MPS need to consult with the community and build partnerships. The MPS want to consult communities and therefore fact sheets were made available. It is important to interact over a longer period with the public, and there are knowledge forums at New Scotland Yard to which he invited LPCCG members.

The following questions were raised:

Ralph Harding asked how wide spread guns were and how successful had the MPS had been in tackling gun factories.

Asst Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur replied that no one knows how many guns there are in London. This country has the most prohibitive laws in respect of possession of guns. Guns turn up during raids for other serious crime. 67% of guns seized following Trident offences are conversion guns, which can cost as little as £20. The mail order business is increasing. He estimated that the MPS may have taken out 30% of gun factories. He asked that anyone with intelligence to assist the police should call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Eugene Appleby said that the British police are the finest police establishment in the world. He then asked about crime prevention programmes.

Asst Commission Tarique Ghaffur agreed that that the British police are renowned world-wide. He added that Chief Insp Nick Hallett heads the Serious Crime Partnership Team which looks at crime prevention and problem solving with partners. He said that prevention needs to reach out to communities.

Eugene Appleby said that education and prevention should be linked.

Asst Commission Tarique Ghaffur it is difficult to track how funding is allocated and who makes key decisions.

## MINUTE

## ACTION

Chief Supt Archie Torrance added that from the beginning of April this year each borough has a gun crime prevention strategy. He said that there has been an increase in firearms related offences in Lewisham this year. There were 80 incidents in the same period last year and so far this year there have been 94 but not all involving discharge of a firearm.

He said that Supt Annette Wightman has been with us since July and is looking at the best way of deploying crime prevention officers. Beat managers are trained in problem solving. Next year three wards will be part of the Step Change Programme and will have dedicated teams of police officers.

Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye said that he was pleased about the report on Trident. He highlighted that commercial crime is not restricted to the UK. He said that people are enticed from particular communities through e-mail to part with their money.

Asst Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said that there is a lot of publicity on the MPS website alerting people of such types of fraud. The average loss is £79,000. The police have shut down the sites where ever they are in the world, but it is difficult to stop completely.

Sinna Mani said that a majority of the Muslim community is law abiding and the whole community are upset when someone is arrested and law-abiding citizens should not be marginalised.

Asst Commission Tarique Ghaffur responded that the police were conscious not to stigmatise certain communities and appreciated the diverse nature of London. He said there needs to be a more open dialogue about serious crime.

G Oshevire raised his concerns that the police do not seem to have sufficient power to tackle drug shops.

Asst Commission Tarique Ghaffur responded that there are plenty of powers in relation to drugs, but the issue is about priorities and resources. The MPS need to work with Customs. It may also be an issue locally.

## MINUTE

## ACTION

Chief Supt Archie Torrance added that there is a small drug squad in Lewisham. Operation Allies was successful in Lewisham Way working in partnership with the local authority to evict tenants using their properties to sell drugs. The top priority in Lewisham is street crime, which is dealt with through the Safer Streets Initiative. There are also Safer Parks and Safer Town Centres initiatives. The Crime and Disorder Partnership is looking at other priorities.

Hannah Baneth said that more resources are necessary for drug users' rehabilitation treatment.

Asst Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said that it was important to address both supply and demand as it harms communities. Preventative programmes for users would help reduce demand.

Gordon Glean said that as much crime is drug related a drug squad should take priority over antiques and wild life.

Asst Commission Tarique Ghaffur responded that if one of the squads was disbanded some people would object. He agreed that there should also be a drug squad and would like more resources to establish one.

Asquith Gibbes thanked Asst Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur for his presentation and hoped that there would be necessary funds for the work that has to be done.

### **Agreed**

The presentation be noted.



**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING (page )**Minutes**Agreed**

the Minutes of the AGM held on 3 December 2003 were agreed.

Matters Arising (page )IAG

Asquith Gibbes said that the IAG continues to function well with the support of the Borough Commander.

Vice Chair

Asquith Gibbes thanked Councillor Peggy Fitzsimmons for her support during the year and said that he would appreciate her continuing contribution.

Terri Foulis added her thanks, particularly for championing the cause of older people.

Val Young asked if she would reconsider standing as Vice Chair LPCCG.

Councillor Peggy Fitzsimmons said that there had been family health issues and was pleased to say they had improved. She would prefer to be an LPCCG member and would continue as long as she is a councillor. She said that she would have liked to worked more in partnership with Asquith Gibbes and made a bigger input. She also expressed her high regard for police in this borough. She also stated that she would like to see a better representation from some minority ethnic groups. Meanwhile, she would still champion older people's issues.

Jerome Denton

Chief Supt Archie Torrance said that following the near fatal stabbing of Jerome Denton on the no. 171 bus, the Police are likely to make arrests soon.

Scott Osborne

Chief Insp Alan Horton said that the trial following the murder of Scott Osborne outside Tesco's in Lewisham is on going.

## MINUTE

## ACTION

### 4. **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS** (page )

Richard Merry has stood down as joint member representing Lewisham Town Centre. Sole membership will reside with Gordon Glean.

Michelle Bent from Refuge has been replaced by June Baptiste temporarily.

Cabinet responsibility for Community Safety and Housing has been split. Councillor Susan Wise will be the Cabinet membership responsible for Housing and Councillor Crada Onuegbu will be the Cabinet member for Community Safety.

#### **Agreed**

The membership as above.

### 5. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

#### Chair

There were nine nominations for Asquith Gibbes as Chair of LPCCG and there were no other nominations. In line with the constitution, by consensus, Asquith Gibbes was elected chair for 2004.

#### Vice Chair

There were three nominations for Councillor Peggy Fitzsimmons, but she chose to stand down this year, and therefore was not included in the vote.

There were two nominations each for Loulou Pearce, Councillor Jackie Addison and David Michael. In line with the constitution, a ballot was held. Loulou Pearce and Councillor Jackie Addison received seven votes each and David Michael received eight votes. Therefore, David Michael was elected Vice Chair for 2004.

#### **Agreed**

that Asquith Gibbes was elected Chair

that David Michael was elected Vice Chair

**2. ANNUAL REPORT**

Asquith Gibbes presented the Annual Report for 2003. He referred to the recent green paper on reforming the police produced by Home Office in which David Blunkett MP pledged to give local people more control over how the police service operates and to establish a “deeper, stronger connection” between forces and the communities they serve.

The consultation paper proposes the creation of advocates who can raise their community’s concerns about the service they receive from their police force and help to decide its priorities. It also calls for members of police authorities to be elected by the public, rather than appointed as they are at present.

Asquith Gibbes said that LPCCG are community advocates and we make sure the borough commander seeks our advice. Many of the policing issues raised relate to the quality of life. The LPCCG are pushing at an open door in relationship to the police.

He said that there is a truth, which relates to the extent of our consultation. There is a relationship to the Crime Reduction Service and to the MPS. In the Voice, Trevor Phillips said he would sort the police out, as if the police are the only ones to be sorted out; other institutions also need sorting out. He said that it is a good thing that the MacPherson Inquiry happened as it gave the opportunity to the police service to listen and show greater accountability and we should press them as far as we are able.

The LPCCG are looking at young people and relating to them on stop and search issues. We are linked to the Community Safety Partnership Board which Councillor Peggy Fitzsimmons has attended.

There has been consultation on the fear of crime at outreach meetings talking to and involving local people.

He felt that the appointment of Supt Annette Wightman and Supt Brian Pearce was most welcome and that the areas in which they would be operating would be of significance.

## MINUTE

## ACTION

He said that the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Section 106 was vague. The police were asked to relate to the local authority and establish consultation on policing activity. The government proceeded to amend the Act with Section 96 of the Police Act 1996 which required consultation, but did not specify PCCGs. The MPA took over responsibility from the MPS. The MPA proposed a new constitution for all PCCGs, which did not go down well with them. Very recently the MPA sought legal advice and informed us that PCCGs are unincorporated associations and not an agents of the MPA. Such information was then circulated to members on the legal status of PCCGs.

Asquith Gibbes suggested that the LPCCG would update their constitution. The MPA also require a service level agreement and equality statement as part of the new bidding process.

Asquith Gibbes was pleased to say that the relationship with the Borough Commander remains a good one.

He said too that racism will remain an issue for the police and we will ensure that it is addressed.

He thanked LPCCG members for their contribution and attendance and the Agenda Planning Group members who discuss issues between meetings and set agenda. He said it has been a good year.

He also thanked the co-ordinator for the superb quality of service that she gives to the LPCCG.

## MINUTE

## ACTION

### 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (page )

#### Catford Urban Design Framework

June Al Malah informed the meeting that there would be a public meeting to include discussion on Crime/Safety issues in Catford Town Centre on 3 December at 4pm in the Civic Suite.

#### Equality Statement

The equality statement was agreed with the following amendment:

LPCCG believe in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the furtherance of "equalities" to be replaced by "equal opportunities".

#### Visit to Lewisham Police Station

A visit to the new police station will be arranged for LPCCG members. Those interested were asked to leave their details.

### 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (page )

The next meeting will be held on 24 February 2004.

The meeting ended at 9:15pm

Chair  
7 December 2004