

HARINGEY COMMUNITY & POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP
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Minutes of the Haringey Community & Police Consultative Group Annual General Meeting held on **Wednesday 24 September 2008** at THE CIVIC CENTRE, WOOD GREEN, LONDON N22

1 WELCOME TO THE MEETING

1.1 The Chair welcomed the Mayor Cllr Alan Dobbie, President of the HCPCG to the meeting and asked everyone to be upstanding for recently passed away members, Mr Randall Francis, African Caribbean Centre and Mr Harold Resnick, Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men & Women.

1.2 He also introduced those sitting on the top table: Superintendent Wood, MPS; Dr Samuel Wynter, Vice Chair; Kirsten Hearn, MPA Link Member for Haringey; Enid Ledgister, CPCG Director; David Singh, CPCG Treasurer; and Jean Croot, Safer Communities Haringey

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from DaVID Lammy MP, Borough Commander C/Supt David Grant, Chico Pacheo, Neighbourhood Watch; Dr Viv Manheim, Haringey CPCG Member; Alfred Williams, Individual Member; Lynne Featherstone, MP; Nilgun Canver, London Borough of Haringey; Joanne McCartney, GLA; Kate Franzmann, Safer Neighbourhoods; Mary Pilgrim, Probation Service; Pam Morgan, Safer Neighbourhoods; Cllr Gmmh Rahman Khan, London Borough of Haringey; Richard Gardner, Neighbourhood Watch; Mina Patel, Asian Carers Support Group (Haringey); Gerard McGrath, Noel Park Ward Panel Chair; Angie Buzzacott, Woodside Ward Panel Chair; Anne Jones, Haringey Women's Association.

2.2 The chair announced the following potential new individual members, not all of whom were present at the meeting: Rosemary Johnson, Amin Della, Kirsty Marks, David Ball, Peter Wright and Lauritz Hansen-Bay and Bevin Betton as Group Membership. Their membership approval by the Board was sought to be ratified.

2.3 A member of the audience said that only those present at the meeting should be nominated but the Chair said that there were many circumstances why people did not attend or were late. He suggested that if they had not arrived at the meeting within 15 minutes of the end of the meeting, their membership could be reconsidered. Peter Wright was also recommended for membership and the Group agreed.

2.4 The Chair introduced the Mayor who said he was delighted to be at the meeting. He thanked the outgoing Board and paid particular thanks to the Groups Director, Enid Ledgister and to everyone, the police included, working across the 19 wards in Haringey. He said that he was proud of the police service in Haringey saying that C/Supt David Grant was very committed to Haringey and working for its community. The Mayor commented on aspects of the Group's Annual Report. He spoke about the Young People's event saying it was important to engage with young people. He commented on the reduction in the total number of crimes in the Borough but said that he had personal experience of being burgled and he had been grateful to help he had received from Victim Support. He concluded by thanking the Chair for his work in the past three years, wished the new candidates well and offered his continued support.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM and MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The Minutes of the AGM held on 19 September 2007 were approved as a true and accurate record.

3.2 The name Wayne Morrison should be corrected to Wayne Mawson throughout.

4 PROPOSED MOTIONS

- 4.1 **Motion 1:** That the officers and Board of Directors should be elected every three years, ie at every third annual AGM starting from this one.
- 4.2 A member of the audience said he was not happy with this proposal because it meant no fresh blood coming in every year. He suggested there be a one-third rotation each year so that one-third moves and two-thirds remain to sustain the organisation. He made the proposal that this motion be amended immediately or be brought back to another public meeting.
- 4.3 Mr Chris Hannington agreed with the previous speaker and supported the amendment. The Chair questioned why Mr Hannington had not dissented when the matter was discussed by the Board but moved that the motion be amended so that one-third of the membership would retire at the end of the year. This was seconded and the amendment was carried.
- 4.4 **Motion 2:** That the Company Board of Directors shall be as follows:
Ex Officio: Haringey Borough Commander and ICV representative
Member Directors: 1 chairperson, 2 vice-chairs, 1 treasurer, 3 general board members.
- 4.5 Mr Magnum made the observation that this composition seemed to be lopsided because elected members are powerful and co-option is in the hand of those who are elected. He said that the powers of co-option should be 3-4 not to 6. He felt that the whole of 15 becomes very unwieldy for practical reasons.
- 4.6 The Chair put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed.

5 ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS (Cllr Alan Dobbie in the Chair)

- 5.1 There was a tie for Chairman and following a re-vote, Mr Frederick Williams (14 votes) was voted as Chair. Dr Samuel Wynter received 13 votes.
- 5.2 Viv Manheim, Chris Hannington and Paul Johnson stood for Vice-Chair with Chris Hannington and Viv Manheim duly elected vice chairs
- 5.3 David Singh stood unopposed and was elected as Treasurer

6 ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS – 9 positions

- 6.1 Six nominations for the Board had been received and The Mayor, moved that they be elected en bloc.
- 6.2 Nominations were invited for 3 people from the floor. It was suggested that Paul Stephenson go forward; David Court was nominated and seconded with the third vacancy being held over to the next meeting.
- 6.3 A member of the audience asked that special thanks be given to David Singh for being treasurer.
The Mayor handed over to the new Chair, Mr Fred Williams.

7 REPORTS

- 7.1 The Chair said that the CPCG Annual Report 2007/08 had been sent out.
- 7.2 Superintendent Richard Wood explained that he in charge of Operation Blunt 2 – helping to stop young people getting killed across London. He said that his team concentrated on 10 Boroughs, 8 inner London, 2 outer London and that although Stop and Search procedures were used, a third element – Engage – was added. This meant that officers talked to those they stopped to find out what was happening. Of the 18,000 searches carried out to date he was not aware of any complaints.
- 7.3 A team at Lambeth Control Centre monitor calls assesses the risk and deploys whatever is necessary to control the incident or potential incident. The aim is to stop violence before it starts and a picture is drawn up of the minority of young people who are involved.
Supt Wood then gave some examples where the team had stopped a number of organised gang violence, another occasion where the team responded to a fatal stabbing and recovered intelligence leading to a group believed to be responsible and another occasion where the team recovered 650 weapons.
- 7.4 He stressed throughout his presentation the importance of engaging with communities, finding out what is happening, diverting activity and making long-term change and that this activity has

resulted in positive feedback from the community and from young people themselves because we are trying to keep them all safe.

7.5 Supt Wood said that when young people are stopped we hand them a leaflet giving them a number they can call to give us feedback on what is happening. We also ask the community to witness our stop, search and engage activities.

7.6 He then showed examples of some of the weapons young people were using and spoke about some of the projects that were diverting young people away from violent activity such as the HCPCG Boxing Club started by and a credit to C/Supt Stephen James which has gone round the world. He spoke, too, about the Schools Project which sent a DVD into every school in Haringey with community members speaking.

7.7 He ended his presentation by saying that on the evening of the meeting the Task Force had recovered knives and a sword from a gang violence occurrence and were now on their way to make an arrest.

7.8 **QUESTION:** Chris Hannington said that this was a huge operation and that in our communities we must listen to what people say about this operation so that we continue to have positive feedback. He said that he had accompanied an operation in Muswell Hill last weekend when the leaflet had not been available so people were asking what was going on although the DVD was playing in the police van. He suggested that the DVD be shown at the next meeting.

7.9 **ANSWER:** Supt Wood said that the leaflet was a very new idea and had been well received in the community. It would be disseminated it to all areas by the end of the week. He informed the meeting that 10 DVDs were being held in Haringey and that more could be obtained.

7.10 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience commented that there had been many funerals and asked what exactly Operation Blunt does and what, for example, would happen in the case where a knife was dropped off that had been used to kill someone.

7.11 **ANSWER:** Supt Wood said that he was not aware that something like this had ever happened but that he did not know the full background to the Amnesty Bin. **ACTION:** Supt Wood agreed to find out and inform the group.

7.12 **QUESTION:** : A member of the audience said that the emphasis was on youth, but that older people were around with knives, too, and that some education should be directed towards parents .

7.13 **QUESTION:** A member of audience expressed concerns about stop and search saying that the community in Haringey had worked hard for years for stop and search to be properly documented and asked if there had been any consultation on these new stop and search activities.

7.14 **ANSWER:** Supt Wood said that the team wanted to be accountable to the community but he did not want to tie up officers to hours of form filling.

7.15 **ANSWER:** Supt Wood said that the team concentrated on young people (teens and early 20s) because they are being stabbed and they are carrying knives. If information was available on older people carrying knives then this would be dealt with. He added that the initiative to have a police officer in every school had been his but that it was not possible to change communities over night.

7.16 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked if the Mayor's Map had made any difference to which Supt Wood said that it was too early to say.

7.17 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience applauded the work being done with young people and asked whether, for example, Tai Chi swords, can be carried legitimately to practice.

7.18 **ANSWER:** Supt Wood said that officers had discretion in this respect.

7.19 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked if recommendation 61 after the Stephen Lawrence case was still in effect.

7.20 **ANSWER:** Supt Wood said that a new, more simplified form, was being trialled and he would be happy to provide copies of it.

7.21 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked if there would be so much publicity if victims were from a different background to which Supt Wood responded by saying that he had no control over the media and that this was often a frustration.

7.22 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience explained that he had been stopped in Wood Green station, accused of assaulting a police officer and held in the cells for 7 hours. He said he had been of previous good character and now wondered what he could do.

- 7.23 **ANSWER:** Supt Wood said that he could not comment on individual cases but said that a formal complaint could be made. **ACTION:** To feedback on procedure.
- 7.24 **QUESTION:** Another member of the audience explained that he was a post-grad student and was stopped under anti-terrorism legislation. He wanted to know what evidence the police had to suggest that I was a terrorist. He said that he had made a complaint which was upheld by the police and was invited to attend a stop and search operation which he had not yet done.
- 7.25 **ANSWER:** Supt Wood said that there is no universal answer to the question "what does a terrorist look like". He said that when he first came to Haringey there were 200 hundred nationalities living here. He added that Under section 44 when Spurs play at home the police service has vans outside and use stop and search measures with mostly white people.
- 7.26 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience suggested that sections of the community were being criminalised but Supt Wood refuted this saying that the service worked tirelessly to work with communities.

8 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

- 8.1 A member of the audience asked why the Admin Fee 2007-2008 of £66,000 was 4 times that of the previous year.
- 8.2 Mr Singh said that this figure included Director's salary, support staff, costs and that the Accountants had chosen to use this wording.
- 8.3 The Chair asked that Hager Stenhouse & Co be re-appointed as auditors and this was agreed.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 A member of the audience as if this were a closed group asking particularly if young people could attend and if so how was the meeting advertised to them.
- 9.2 The Chair said that the meeting was public and everyone was welcome. The Director, Enid Ledgeister said that she publicised the meetings in the press and that the Group had a special Youth Project.
- 9.3 In response to a question about the progress of the Roger Sylvester case, the Chair said that the investigation was not concluded.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The meeting closed at 9.50pm and the date of the next meeting will be 23 September 2009.