

HARINGEY COMMUNITY & POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP
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Public Meeting
Wednesday 17 March 2010, 7.30pm
The African Caribbean Leadership Council
9 Clarendon Road
Hornsey, London N8 0DD

1. Welcome

- 1.1 The Chair, Chris Hannington OBE, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Samantha Evans the officer responsible for the Group at the MPA.

2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.2 Apologies were received from: C/Supt David Grant, Haringey Borough Commander; Joanne McCartney, Link member with MPA; Councillor Nilgun Canver LB of Haringey, Shmuel Davidsohyn, HC&PCG Member; Sally Billot, Bounds Green Ward Panel Chair; Lauritz Hansen-Bay, Alexandra Ward Panel Chair; John Hajdu, Fortis Green Ward Chair; Gillian Lacey, HC&GPC; Robert How, Roslyn Watch Co-Ordinator; Gordon Keenan, Local Resident and, due to illness, Vice-Chairman Gerard McGrath

3. Minutes & Matters Arising from the Previous Public Meeting

- 3.1 It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November were a true record and there were no matters arising.

4. Borough Policing: 2010-11 Policing Plan for Cutting Crime: Supt Chris Barclay

- 4.1 Supt Barclay, speaking on behalf of the Borough Commander, gave as an example of the influence of CPCGs the way in which Hackney CPCG had lobbied for a police officer who had stopped the biggest IRA bomb in London in 1992 to receive the Queen's Police Medal.
- 4.2 Supt Barclay thanked individuals for contributing to the planning process via internet feedback and the Ward Panels for submitting their priorities which, together with the Territorial Police Targets, form the basis of the Policing Plan.
- 4.3 Supt Barclay informed the meeting that despite a 20% reduction in budget, there should be no diminution of service.
- 4.4 He also reported that over the last 6 months there had been a significant improvement in the number of emergency calls being answered within the specified time.
- 4.5 He admitted that the service was doing better on some policing targets than others but Supt Barclay said that what was important were actual numbers rather than percentage changes. He hoped, for example to see the number of victims reduce.
- 4.6 **Question:** Mario Petrou said he was disappointed that figures had not been produced in a printed format for the meeting to review. He also said that figures should be produced in relation to crime relating to various types of shops, for example betting shops where he believed crime rates were high. He also raised a question in relation to the putting up of No Alcohol signs in park areas saying it now appeared that these no alcohol zones were in the west rather than the east of the Borough.
- 4.7 **Answer: ACTION:** In regard to the statistics, Supt Barclay said that he would be able to produce crime figures for future meetings. In respect of betting shops, he asked Mario Petrou to inform him what kind of statistics would be helpful.
- 4.8 **Question:** Mario Petrou said it could be useful to show that crime is more likely to be associated with a betting shop or gaming arcade than other types of shops.
- 4.9 **Answer:** Supt Barclay said that information is produced via geographical area rather than by type of retail outlet. **ACTION:** Supt Barclay agreed to contact Mario Petrou later concerning this matter.

- 4.10 **Answer:** Supt Barclays said that in relation to the no-alcohol zones, these are areas that have been highlighted as those where alcohol-related issues have arisen but that officers have discretion.
- 4.11 **Question:** Hugh Francis, Chairman of ACLC, asked a question in relation to the collection and storage of DNA. When should the DNA be stored, when someone has been arrested but not charged or after a charge has been made. He said that in the black community, it appeared to be the former.
- 4.12 **Answer:** Supt Barclays said that when someone is arrested, s/he is brought into the station and booked and at this point we are able to take DNA samples and they are held for evermore. He said that discussions about this process were currently taking place.
- 4.13 **Question:** Peter Doherty, Housing Director at Metropolitan Housing Trust which manages the Sky City Scheme asked how Housing Associations can feed into the Ward Panels and how the Borough's priorities are set.
- 4.14 **Answer:** Supt Barclays said that in respect of Borough-wide priorities, Ward Panels feed into the overall policing plan.
- 4.15 The Chair informed the meeting that several Ward Panels were actively seeking new members and anyone willing to be involved would be very welcome. **ACTION:** He asked Mr Doherty to contact the Group's Director who would be happy to provide contact details.
- 4.16 **Question:** A member of the audience said that he had seen officers using their discretion in relation to drinking. He added that in his experience vicious dogs are a greater problem in parks and he asked if the service was pushing for micro-chipping.
- 4.17 **Answer:** Supt Barclays said the service sees this problem up close when its officers are injured. He said that sometimes alcohol and dogs are linked together and said that anything that can be done to control these dogs is important.
- 4.18 The Chair said that this issue is currently a politically grey area but it is something that needed to be addressed.
- 4.19 **Question:** Ken Hines, Chair of Stop and Search Group said that a recent report was critical of Stop and Search and asked how the service had introduced the results into its policy.
- 4.20 **Answer:** Supt Barclays said that every stop and search goes on to a system so it can be reviewed. He said that disproportionality was a difficult issue and often those who are the victims or perpetrators are those that are stopped. It is hard to get this demographically spot on he added.
- 4.23 The Chair said that it would be useful to use the Stop and Search Group to help provide solutions.
- 4.24 **Question:** Neville Watson, asked whose jurisdiction the police squads that come from outside the Borough fall.
- 4.25 **Answer:** Supt Barclays said that these squads, known as TSGs, are made up of officers who are trained to a very high standard to handle public order situations. They are used in Haringey, as is Operation Blunt, teams that are less highly trained in public order but who can be mobilised quickly to deal with violence in the area. Supt Barclays said that such squads are accountable to him and to the Borough Commander for the work they do whilst in Haringey although they also have their own bosses. He accepted that they may not be fully conversant with the sensitivities in the Borough.
- 4.36 The Chair said that the firearms squad were also responsible to the Borough Commander.
- 4.37 Faridoun Madon asked whether a TSG should be briefed on the local situation.
- 4.38 Supt Barclay explained that TSG and Operation Blunt squads were called in for speed, and although they are briefed on the issues and the local area, their role is to be operational quickly and they will not therefore know all the local sensitivities.
- 4.39 **Question:** Ralph Crisp asked to whom the squad was accountable if it dealt with something it encountered as it was passing through the Borough.
- 4.40 **Answer:** Supt Barclays said it was important for such squads to deal with something that they see and informed the meeting that there were many covert units moving around.
- 4.41 **Question:** A member of the audience said that Shopping City acted as a focal point for Haringey and beyond and that drug crime and muggings were prevalent in the area.

- 4.42 **Answer:** Supt Barclays said that a massive change had taken place since foot patrols had been introduced with reductions in both drug crime and muggings although he did not have specific figures to hand. He said that Turnpike Lane and Wood Green were still a priority.
- 4.43 **ACTION:** The Chair asked that people contact the Group's office for specific statistical information either before or after the meeting.
- 4.44 **Question:** Mario Petrou suggested that dogs should be muzzled.
- 4.45 **Answer:** Supt Barclay said that if a dog was not under control then its owner could be prosecuted.
- 4.46 The Chair pointed out that the issue of violent dogs was a political but not a policing one.
- 5. Central Government: European Court Ruling that Section 44 "Stop and Search" is unlawful.**
- 5.1 The Chair introduced Bennett Obong, the lead authority from the MPA on Stop and Search.
- 5.2 Mr Obong said that he was a Haringey resident and that he had a dual responsibility, one for stop and search and the other for hate crime, both areas that have had much prominence.
- 5.3 In terms of the MPA's expectations in relation to policing in London he said that the MPA wanted to see year on year reduction in crime and efficiency in how the MPS uses its financial resources. The MPA seeks to ensure that the Metropolitan Police Service and other staff represent the community. The MPA looks at response and clarity in Standard Operating Procedures, improving communication with communities, having proper engagement with all communities and visitors to London particularly in the current heightened alert to all of us working, living and travelling across and through London.
- 5.4 Mr Obong explained the recent ruling by the European Court in respect of Section 44 which refers to an incident which took place in 2005. He said that since that time, the MPA had made changes in how Section 44 is used and the police are clear that it is now used on intelligence, both overt and covert, gained evidence. This change, he said, happened well over a year ago. He said that he was happy for stop and search to be used as a deterrent but the issue is how it is used, what the engagement is when the police officer stops an individual in the community and asks them what they are doing in a particular place at a particular time and searches them too. It is about how it is done in situ, so that it is respectful he added.
- 5.5 Mr Obong then explained what has come out of the ruling. Firstly, in a designated area, a police officer or PCSO can stop but PCSO's cannot search. Police Officers and PCSOs can use any digital images on a mobile phone or camera that the person is carrying if they are thought to be in connection with terrorism. The ruling states that section 44 was not in accordance with the law in the particular case to which the ruling was made. The European Court also found that stop and search had negative affects on BME communities and that there were insufficient safeguards against stop and search being used and the public being protected against the arbitrary use of stop and search.
- 5.6 Mr Obong stressed once more that this ruling related to an incidence that happened 5 years ago and that the situation had now changed.
- 5.7 He informed the meeting that The Secretary of State is now challenging this ruling, but that he did not know the timescale. He also said that the MPA was looking at explanations for disproportionality and would be working closely with the police service to explore this.
- 5.8 Supt Barclay said that every briefing meeting with police officers includes information on their powers in relation to the Terrorism Act and every stop and search is logged. He also said that the service does not tell the general public where areas of risk are as this would be detrimental to the terrorists themselves.
- 5.9 **Question:** Anne Gray, prospective parliamentary candidate Green Party said that although grounds for suspicion are needed, the primary legislation says that stop and search can take place when there is no suspicion against an individual. The use of this power, she said, has escalated with it being used 4 times more in 2008 than 2006-7. She added that less than 1% of searches under this power have led to an arrest since 2003 and she questioned whether this was good use of police money suggesting that targeted intelligence would be more appropriate. For example using knife arches for dangerous weapon at stations.

- 5.10 **Question:** Anna Braga, local election Green Party Candidate for Stroud Green said that in The Voice newspaper, Simon Woody wrote of the disproportionate use of stop and search in the black community. She asked if this was due to racial profiling and what was the justification because it appears to be generating ill-feeling in the community.
- 5.11 **Question:** Faridoon Madon said that stop and search was an important tool, particularly in relation to terrorism, but that Black people are targeted 9 times more than others.
- 5.12 **Answer:** Supt Barclay said that Section 44 states that, in a designated area, no reasonable grounds are required but that Section 43 is slightly different and gives powers in connection with people who are suspects.
- 5.13 Mr Obong said that up to November 2009 Section 44 had been used 166 times in Haringey. He explained that “a designated area” is determined via intelligence-led policing. He said that as a black man, brought up in north and east London, and having been stopped and searched himself, could see it from both sides. He assured everyone that police officers is trying to keep everyone safe, but that there were concerns about how stop and search measures have been exercised. He assured the meeting that the MPA continues to ask questions about why and how section 44 measures are exercised.
- 5.14 He said that although the report revealed that in Haringey Black people are being stopped twice as often as White people, this is not as bad as in some boroughs. Resources for young people are diminishing year on year and the report acknowledges that there is a propensity for young people and young black people to be more visible in the community and that therefore they are asked more often what they are doing in an area. Needs to be looked at in context of what’s happening in the area.
- 5.15 **Question:** A member of the audience said that if stop and search lead to reduction in crime it would be supported but Section 44 was alienating the very people you need to build bridges with and that no convictions had resulted from Section 44 stop and searches. He added that he had been stopped and searched himself because he was reading a book on Hamas as part of his Masters Degree studies.
- 5.16 **Question:** Ken Hines said that more targeted stop and searches would result in more confidence in the community.
- 5.17 **Answer:** Mr Obong said that the MPA was challenging the MPS on how it polices London to ensure that Section 44 is used appropriately. He said that whilst the report looked at Staffordshire and Cleveland, areas quite different from London, that did not discount the experiences of people in the meeting.
- 5.18 **Answer:** Supt Barclay said that the service needed to police by consent to get it right. He accepted that stop and search was disproportional and that the service needed to work with the community to gain its trust.
- 5.19 **Question:** Douglas Williams, Find Your Voice asked what can be done as a community to change stop and search.
- 5.20 **Question:** Cllr Sheik Thompson said he was worried that the Consultative Group had not really cracked the nut of proportionality. He applauded the work of Mr Obong and said that as far as the law relating to Section 43 and Section 44 was concerned, no one seems to realise that there are not many black-skinned terrorists other than Nelson Mandela. Despite this, he said that the Group’s members were still working together.
- 5.21 **Question:** Hesketh Benott whose job is youth engagement said that young people coming out of the youth centres were often stopped and searched, yet they were on the right road. He said that the youngsters say that the correct procedures are not in place eg they cannot ask for police numbers. He said that these youngsters should be supporting the police and asked that appropriate police training be in place soon.
- 5.22 **ACTION:** The Chair said that the evening has succeeded in being an opportunity for people to express what is happening, the effects of what is happening and their concerns. He assured the meeting that the Group would continue to return to this issue until community concerns are no longer. He explained that The Stop and Search Monitoring Group was part of London-wide stop and search monitoring and although independent of the police was part of a process by which the community holds the police accountable. He stressed that community members should be involved and that when there are matters that need to be reported, that is encouraged.

- 5.23 **Question:** A member of the audience made a statement saying she was saddened by the situation because in the 1970s her children had been beaten up by the police because they were walking with their black friends and recently one of her mixed-race grandsons had been savaged by a bull terrier yet the police asked what he was doing to annoy the dog.
- 5.24 **Question.** A member of the audience asked how much money or person hours the Metropolitan Police devoted to stop and search and for knife arches.
- 5.25 **Question:** Another member of the audience, a resident for 25 years, said that it would be useful for more mature officers with life skills to be put into areas to deal with tense situations, that more black and Asian officers should be recruited and the words police service be used instead of police force.
- 5.26 **Answer:** Supt Barclay acknowledged the comments and accepted that there are areas for improvement.
- 5.27 **Answer:** Mr Obong said that if issues were brought to him via the Stop and Search Monitoring Group he would take the questions forward. He said that some Boroughs offer training so that young people can interact with officers.
- 5.28 **Answer:** Supt Barclays said that he understood that some of this was already happening in the Borough although it could be done on a larger scale. He emphasised that whilst it was important to catch terrorists he did not want to upset people by needless stop and search.
- 5.29 The Chair thanked Bennett Obong and Supt Barclay for their input.

6. Any other Business

- 6.1 In response to a question from Mario Petrou, regarding the CPCG working for the NHS and local authority the Chair informed the meeting that the Haringey Consultative Group carried out work for the PCT but not for this Group. He stressed that the Group works hard to be representative of the community and this was an issue under active consideration.

7. Date of next meeting

- 7.1 Monday 20 September 2010, this is the AGM

Meeting finished at 9.35pm

ATTENDANCE LIST

NAME	ORGANISATION (and address if applicable)
Jane Ansell	HCPCG Tottenham Green S.N.
Beslan Sisupalan	Prospective Candidate for Noel Park
Bennett Obong	MPA
Sandra Gouveia	ICV Chair - Haringey
Sam Evans	MPA Engagement & Partnership
Supt Chris Barclay	MPS
Mr Bill Guy	HCPCG
S Mustoe	HCPCG
Marsh Alam	Resident
F. Madon	HCPCG
Ishia Turay	African Family Services
Natasha Franklin	Haringey ICV Vice Chair
Chris Hannington	HCPCG & HREC
Viv Manheim	HCPCG Vice Chair
Anne Gray	Green Party
Ralph Crisp	HCPCG
Bishop Frimpong-Manson	
Holly Scofield	
Mahdi Hassan	W.P.Green
Indu Shukla	Individual Member
Hadya H Said	AWWG
Daniel Udoakah	HCPCG
Kevin O'Shea	Blake Rd N11
David Jackson	Loal resident
Insp Eric Monk	MPS
Dave Manheim	Local Resident
Enid Ledgister	HCPCG
Peter Doherty	MHT
Andrea Holden	HCPCG
David S	HCPCG
R Ward	
R Mansworth	
I C Okeke	House of Refuge
H Benott	CONEL
N Hartley	Association of Jamaican UK
M R Fowler	HFOP
Diane Arthur	Mind In Haringey
E H Brydsen	MWST
Jessie Stephens	ACLL
Douglass Williams	Find your voice
Hugh Francis	ACLC
F Ellis	HCPCG
M. Petrou	Local Resident
Jean Croot	Haringey Council
Neville Watson	PPC
Cllr S G L Thomson	LB of Haringey
Ken Hinds	S & S Monitoring Group – Chair
David Singh	HCPCG
Gwen Ryes	Minute Taker

