

## JAG Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011, 7.30pm at 21 JA (approved 19apr11)

### **In attendance:**

Tim Fairhurst; Julia Wait; Louise Belson; Ophelia Nazareth; Garry Turnbull; Graham Lane; Tim Sutton; Elizabeth Owen; Naz Persaud; Phil Barcham; Emmanuel Parrenin; Christine Teriele; Linda Himbert

### **Apologies:**

Nick, Robyn, Sibs and Christine (subsequently, Cllr. Ling)

## 1. Policing, Safety

### **Policing update**

TF: Safer Neighbourhood Team [SNT] update: following cuts there is a new plan, 'Operation Hannah'. Traditional use of ward boundaries will be broken down to allow more flexible use of policing resources; seems reasonable. They expected to be back to strength by 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Not now allowed to recruit more Police Community Support Officers [PCSOs], but that may change. This explains why they are not here tonight (they don't have as many scheduled evening hours). Vice squad getting bigger. General impression is that Lambeth will not suffer.

LB: PH means that 4 SNTs will join together when needed to do something in one area that may be needed. They will still stay specific to an area. Additionally, there will be more PCSOs eventually. Whether we see them or not is a moot point.

GT: SNTs hold a panel meeting every 3 months, and that is where we can have more contact with the SNT. We can always go and they are delighted when we attend. Good way of keeping in touch.

EP: I felt they were more communicative with the troops than with the residents.

GT: But good to prioritise the agenda for the Police Communication Officers [PCOs].

TS: A couple of initiatives were cut in Streatham and it seems that these panel meetings are going to become more important.

### **Licensing, South Beach**

TF: One of the things that came up at the Brixton Hill steering group on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. was the South Beach licensing review. It was suggested that anyone with a view attends the meeting this Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup>. Only people who have already made written representation may speak, but anyone can attend. Currently, 22% (figure to be verified) of Lambeth commercial properties can be licensed, but surely there should be a saturation point? Essentially, law change allowed existing retail licensees to get 24 hour license on demand.

Councillor (Clare Whelan) mentioned that central government is looking into the matter and may be reviewing the 24 hour problem. Home Office Minister James Brokenshire is in charge. Change is expected in 2012 (according to Clare). We should make representations. There seems to be increasing awareness that the situation now is silly.

LB: Might be a good idea to write to local representatives re. SB and proliferation of off-licences to give idea of what the local saturation leads to-anti-social behaviour etc.

EP: Would be good to get a saturation policy implemented.

GT: Cllr. Ruth Ling is aware of all these points and can be used as a conduit.

TF: Seems to be ok to talk about it again - not just the case that 'that's the law, too bad' that has been heard from the licensing body.

GT: The SB hearing; would be good for as many as possible to go along. We have had a meeting to discuss the agenda for Thursday night. There was a shooting near it a few weeks ago, subsequent police action triggered a police review of the licence. Both residents' and police review will happen the same night.

NP: My neighbour says that most of the SB crowd comes from Peckham. He said that he won't go there himself.

The guy who runs SB will clam that it is not his problem. Maybe we should ask what the council is doing to make the town centre a better place to go to?

TF: We're not trying to be spoilsports; there should surely be a coherent plan; it's just that SB is in the wrong place. It's depressing to see paycheck shops and pound shops proliferate in Brixton centre empty premises that would be good places for night-life. Worth pushing as Lambeth does have some ways of influencing what goes on in the centre.

LB: I went to a meeting that was the panel meeting re. policing central Brixton. Employed by the council as a consultant was a manager of retail outlets in Brix central. Venues in town are losing money. They see age group normally targeted as leaving central Brixton and moving up the hill.

GT: These issues best thrashed out on Thurs.

TF: Meet beforehand?

LB: March down the road to the TH!

**ACTION:** JAG to get informed and pursue licensing regulation review, especially re saturation point.

### Illegal house party

TF: Short summary of what happened at 25A 15/16Jan (commercial party, hundreds of people, paid-for entry and bar, kept going until 2pm Sunday). The police don't really have the power to stop it. The environmental guys came and collected evidence. Sympathies go to those most affected. It seems to have been opportunistic – not a permanent tenant etc. L&Q (landlord) fully apprised of it and dealt with it.

LH: Was told about the "birthday party" by the tenant; no-one had any idea it was going to turn into what it did. 10 pounds entrance fee.

NP: It was really awful. Even from the other side of the road.

GT: L&Q are now aware that they need to deal with things like this.

TF: Also Lambeth – their Environmental Health team had called a couple of times since to recognise the complaint and check details.

LH: Police told me that they do not have the money to deal with it anymore.

TF: realistically, police aren't going to deploy the resources that would be needed to close it down; would make the trouble spill into the street.

### Security

TF: Strangers attempting to access communal property came from Philip at no39. Someone rang the doorbell asking to see person in middle flat. Didn't seem quite right. Clearly a lie and they left.

Should we put our names on the doorbell? Maybe not if it makes it easier for people to pretend they know occupants; at least make sure you never put first name.

NP: It happened to me. Someone came claiming to read the electric meter. Also to read the water meter and I have no water meter.

TS: Did he have an ID?

LH: Can you describe him?

NP: Not really sure.

PB: He looked the business-neatly dressed etc...

EO: ID can be faked. You can ask the utility company to give you a password if you want to verify that they sent someone.

### Neighbourhood watch

TF: It would be possible to form a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the street. It can reduce insurance premiums. Signage etc. puts people off (and is the only visible sign of a neighbourhood watch).

TS: We decided against in the past I think because it is too much work – requirement for more meetings etc.

GT: Criteria for implementation then used to include support from 70 per cent of the street, but that is no longer the case.

LB: lets have a vote.

**ACTION:** General agreement that it's a good idea to look into it; JAG to follow up.

### Other nuisance

LH: Driving schools always use my corner for their reverse turns.

TF: Send me the numbers of the driving schools in question and I will contact asking if they can vary the locations (while recognising it's a public road so they can do it).

## 2. JAG officers, finances, status

TF: We need more officers. Currently just JW and TF are officers (plus co-chair Peter Clasen currently posted overseas).

EP is prepared to be the treasurer. Proposed by TS, seconded by everyone.

**VOTE: Emmanuel Parrenin unanimously elected as JAG treasurer.**

TF: EP will need to get his head round the figures, and report back on them and what formal requirements we have to tell to the appropriate authorities about our existence and nature to ensure we do not become liable for tax.

LB: We now have full accounts from 2006- present. They can be handed to EP tonight.

No further interest expressed in standing for office. To be continued....

## 3. JAG meetings, funds and community engagement

### Frequency/location of meetings

TF: We need to talk about how often we have meetings, but meetings aren't everything.

Would be good to get a pool of people who have an hour or two spare a month just to help with whatever comes along. Currently meetings happen 10 times a year. It is now a lot busier, so job has become much bigger. LB did so much last year to organise meetings. Do we need a formal meeting each month? Perhaps move to one every 2 months, then a get-together in between.

In America you have 'block representatives', people who know each other in your stretch of the road; people who have a good sense of what other people think. Idea of coming to a meeting can be a little boring, but block representatives can have a good idea of what's going on.

In general, would be a good idea to be more consultative, for example discuss how we can use the funds.

Open discussion on how to get people involve without being official.

PB: I would be happy to be more involved. I am a bit of a chatter box and do talk to most people in our stretch.

TS: Meets in pub don't really work

TF: sort of works in the summer but not ideal. Also, police cannot attend in pub. Compromise could be formal meetings in private houses, then have a get together in the pub in between.

LB: At the AGM, 8 people came to the Mango Landin' after the meeting who had not attended the meeting. Evidently seems like a good alternative / more appealing to some.

GT: News group is always there for people unable to attend meetings.

EO: AGM always conflicts with something going on. Could it be moved?

GT: Should be at the quietest time of the year.

TS: End of Jan?

LB: Alternate Mons and Tues for meetings?

TF: To summarise, we need a few times when police can attend, but does it have to be formal every month?

GT: Used to have "pub Sunday". That petered out very quickly.

TS: If people want to have a social meeting the can organise them themselves. Just have shorter meetings.

TF: Shorter sometimes hard as people want to talk about issues of concern to them – though we can try to control agenda. What's the right balance?

EP: I think that one every 2 months is enough to agree action items and make progress.  
GT: MPs have surgeries. Maybe on a Saturday once a month we could have a visible presence in the street?  
LH: Maybe if we had a table with some cake or something?  
GT: Compromise might be that little table appears on Freshview days.  
ON: Community police gave me his contact details at a freshview day, so that seems like a good idea.  
**ACTION:** JAG table at next FV.  
**ACTION:** propose JAG meeting schedule included AGM

### Participation and links with other groups

TF: Only people who may vote are JA, AR, HG, 75-85BH residents, but anyone can come to meetings. What is our relationship with other groups? Maybe we need to think more laterally.  
TS: Good to have someone from here liaising with another local group.  
GT: I found that lots of streets have dormant groups that only become active when there s an issue; they're hard to contact.  
TF: Other side of BH would like to organise a group (they attend our AGM thanks to extensive leafleting).  
LB: Other side of BH would like to met about things that are fun too. That could involve green/enviro things.  
GT: Are any of these groups on Facebook?  
LB: Urban 75 have a big presence online.  
TF: Please send me contact info for other groups  
LB: Can I have 2 volunteers for the 'JAG table' at the streetclean? GT and ON said yes.  
**ACTION:** JAG table for between 11 and 1 to help with the food table.  
**ACTION:** send TF contact info for other groups

### Funds

TF: What should we do with JAG funds?  
One issue on other side is the Japanese knotweed, which needs specialist treatment to kill it. More of a benefit to even side of the street which may be under-represented in JAG meetings though get involved in street cleans etc – still could be a way of raising awareness. Freshview streetclean on 5<sup>th</sup> March will be opportunity to do that.  
LB: Would be great if PB and NP could find out a little more about what even side of the street would like.  
PB: We could do that, just talk to people and see what issues they would like to be raised.  
TS: Remember the residents survey – that was quite useful.

## 4. Council update

### Street closures

TF: Without RL here, not a lot to discuss, but could we have an update re street closure?  
TS: I wrote on 23 Dec. Have had one reply from council. Arts and culture dept. so unresponsive.  
TF: Is it their call?  
TS: Of course not. I'll forward names re council correspondence.  
TS: Council want to charge another 600 for closure. Road closures are getting difficult. Lots of plans for street parties (royal wedding and otherwise) being scuppered. See *Urban Art* below.

### Recycling/refuse

LH: Green boxes, are these still in use? London not as advanced as Germany is separating waste.  
LB: Veolia would like to discuss how green waste should be collected, as Lambeth is to be a zero waste trial area. JA high on list to be a guinea pig. Will provide info on this at the FV desk.  
GT: Tetrapaks can now go in recycling; good!

## Parking

NP: People on our side are concerned that people are parking off the street and parking in their gardens. Many are worried about this.

GT: That becomes a CPZ issue – though not for the service roads.

TS: None at 22 have cars, but cars are parked there; no one knows who they belong to.

PB: Possibly residents from eastern Europe who have since gone home.

LH: I now have a tree / large log that stops people using parking space.

EP: For illegal cars, Lambeth can note dates of expired tax discs and then move them if not subject to SORN (statutory off-road notice).

We should mention to L&Q whether or not they are allowing parking or no.

TF: Lambeth have acknowledged that they did not conduct the review of the CPZ after it was introduced; they are obliged to. At previous steering group meeting Vice Squad volunteered to deliver as Lambeth transport appeared to be faffing about resources and process.

EO: Does anyone know about gravel outside no 7?

GT: This is all part of the same question and how much RC should be turned over to cars. I took some photos of no 7.

LB: Legal details regarding RC building work: Council now persuaded to test a case, which may get to Supreme Court. They need a test case with whole history for this.

They have replied to us re no7, and they may have evidence to take to High Court.

We need a framework so that we can have RC law that we can all understand.

**ACTION:** Circulate material when we have anything on Rush Common

**ACTION:** Material about recycling plan for Lambeth etc. at freshview info table.

**ACTION:** Find out what L+Qs policy is re parking and permission to park etc.

**ACTION:** Follow up re CPZ review

## Bulk collection service

TF: It will cost something like 20-30 pounds for a few items to be collected once free collection ends in April – book your collection now! Fly-tipping will still be a priority for the council refuse teams, but clearly there may be problems.

TS: Not good for us, as fly tipping attracts fly tipping.

GT: We have an assurance at the moment but we need to be vigilant.

**ACTION:** Circulate the number/website to report fly tipping.

## Condition of street generally

TS: use web to report any problems. <http://www.fixmystreet.com/>

## 5. Trees

TF: Lambeth sent their tree officer for a walk around; he gave some advice – main suggestion was that we need a general management plan which everyone can use.

LB: We have £500 from a grant scheme that must involve local children and schools to label a few trees permanently. Make it fun: possibly an Elizabethan acting show, more information about the tree etc. Organise a competition for schoolchildren, ending hopefully with small permanent plaques.

NP: My child played in the trees.

LB: Idea to be launched at FV, and to be discussed. Volunteer coming from Bradford.

LB: Zac's family would like to have their garden rebuilt; we might do that at street clean.

## 7. Date/Events for 2011

### Urban Art

TS: UA dates-16 and 1 July. Volunteers please as usual. British Home and Trinity Hospice will be the charities. As things stand, road closure would be charged at full price of £3000, now down to £2600.

## Street Cleans

Current Freshview dates are: March 5<sup>th</sup>; July 2<sup>nd</sup>; October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will plan another without Freshview's help on May 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Street party

No plans yet – anyone interested? Shame that last year's was cancelled – might be impossible to produce anything as ambitious, but why not try something smaller? Music? To be discussed next time.

**ACTION:** put fun on the agenda next time!

## 8. Communications

### JAG newsgroup (on yahoo groups)

TF: RL asked to join the news group. A majority of those who contacted GT with a opinion thought this was OK. Opinion was divided. There has been some sensitivity around the issue.

Question is: should we have a forum that is only for residents?

TS: She seems to be our best councillor, and happy for her to join.

GT: Just as a principle, it was voted that she should join, so that should be the end of the issue.

General discussion: some thought that newsgroup should remain apolitical, and allow residents to discuss matters without outside scrutiny (unless the councillors happened also to be residents). Others didn't see any problem.

TF: It could be subject to another vote, but consensus maybe a good thing to go for (even though JAG has had a simple majority vote decision process thus far). Important to think why that issue was controversial, why people might be put off; we're about engagement so it's a problem if people are put off. Should we reconsider as we look at the various forms of communication open to us like website and Facebook? Should there be just one forum that is residents only?

### How to find out what residents want and stay in touch

EP: We already circulate the minutes, isn't that enough to inform people and give them a chance to express views?

[Question: should minutes be printed for each attendee? A lot of paper....]

TF: only 70+ people on the newsgroup

LB: we should remember there is a significant minority who are not online.

PB: It's probably enough to just give people JAG's email address.

TS: Questionnaire we had some ago was quite useful. That highlighted lighting as a major issue and that resulted in some useful feedback. Use the noticeboard.

TF: website, Facebook etc all potentially useful.

**ACTION:** Keep topic open. Circulate info about new website, existing newsgroup etc.

Meeting ended 9.10pm

### Next meeting

Date: TBD

Venue: 2 Helix Gardens