

## Minutes for ACTION on ASB! meeting

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at St Matthew's Church, Brixton

### Attendance:

#### Chair

- Ayesha Hazarika, resident

### ACTION on ASB!

- Peter Impey, Chair, Dalyell Area Residents' Association

### Lambeth Council

- Cllr Mahamed Hashi, Lambeth Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
- Sean Biggart, Head of Public Safety, Community Safety & Resilience
- Robert Harper, Head of Public Protection, Community Safety & Resilience

### Metropolitan Police

- Superintendent Gabriel Cameron
- Chief Inspector Ashlee Gomes
- Inspector Simon Blondell

### MPs

- Bell Ribeiro-Addy, Labour MP for Streatham
- Florence Eshalomi, Labour MP for Vauxhall
- Helen Hayes MP, Labour MP for Dulwich and West Norwood

### Acknowledgements

- The organisers would like to thank St Matthews Church Brixton Building Management Charity for allowing us to host the event in their hall.

## 1. Why we're here

- a. First meeting for ACTION on ASB took place in Sept 23.
- b. It was clear then there was so much community frustration and concern about the rising levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Brixton.
- c. Council and police agreed to create a joint plan to reduce levels of ASB in the area.
- d. Purpose of this meeting is to listen to the plan.
- e. ASB is a volunteer organisation – thank you to local residents.
- f. Pastor Lorraine Jones video: The need to come together with ideas and solutions, and to work with the council and police is paramount. Not enough is being done to tackle violence and ASB and we need to come together to address the problem to bring peace to our streets. Talks of her daughter who has to take the bus rather than the train to go to Brixton, that takes twice as long, because of drug users that are intimidating. Encouraged people to say what they think. It's a state of emergency at the moment – police and council – please do what you say you're going to do. Collective response required. ACTION on ASB! is a driving force.
- g. We are aware that things are very hard for people right now, post pandemic. Poverty can be driving the rise in ASB. We also recognise a squeeze on resources but we do need action.
- h. We heard from a shop owner who runs a store in Brixton called Loved Again – and shared his story. He wanted to serve the community and put a smile on people's faces with his store. He often works through the night there. Last year, someone approached him as he walked home and asked for money. He said he had none and thought that was the end of it but he was pursued by the person. He walked back towards the shop not wanting the man to see where he lived.

The man picked up a metal bar so he didn't go back to the shop as he thought the man might smash his windows. He walked towards the mosque where he felt it would be better to be near other people. He was hit on the head from behind. He made it into the courtyard screaming. He was hit eight times. His skull was broken, and he was blinded on one side. He can no longer drive or ride a bike. He used to be a researcher, which he still does but it slows him down. He said that we still mustn't forget we have to tackle the cause not the symptoms – the person who attacked him was someone's son – we cannot forget that. Rousing applause.

## **2. Health and safety briefing including evacuation plans**

### **3. Agenda outline for the meeting**

- a. ACTION on ASB! community survey results.
- b. Plan presented from the council and the police.
- c. Open floor to questions with focus on the plan that we heard about. There are Councillors in the room from Brixton North, Brixton Acre Lane, Brixton Rush Common and Brixton Windrush wards, available to raise personal issues with
- d. Meeting will close by hearing from our three local MPs.
- e. Plea from the Chair that while we recognise everyone's high passions, we are trying to focus on the issues at hand for this specific meeting.

### **4. Campaign update – Peter Impey, ACTION on ASB!**

- a. ACTION on ASB! scene setting – we pulled together as various resident and community groups/associations (approx 30 different groups) to try and unite as many people in Brixton as possible who are all experiencing the same issues with ASB. Rather than separately trying to make change, the solution was to bring everyone together.
- b. The community is central to these plans – we want everyone's feedback on the police and council plans.
- c. As part of community engagement, ACTION on ASB! sent out a survey – over 450 responses (452 total).
- d. In the survey, people were asked about their experiences and opinions to ASB in Brixton.
- e. In the survey, ASB was defined as the behaviour of people you don't know harassing you, distressing you or causing you to be afraid.
- f. **Headline findings were:**
  - i. 75% think ASB is out of control in Brixton.
  - ii. 79% say ASB in Brixton makes them feel unsafe.
  - iii. Most urgent issues to address: drug dealing and use in public (84%), begging and aggressive begging (58%) and intimidation (54%), followed by other environmental issues – public weeing (46%), littering/fly-tipping (45%) and dangerous riding of e-bikes/scooters (40%).
  - iv. 78% think Lambeth does not take ASB seriously in Brixton.
  - v. 92% think Lambeth is not effective at dealing with ASB in Brixton.
  - vi. Similar levels for the police.
  - vii. 89% think it's urgent that Lambeth focuses more attention and resources on dealing with ASB.
  - viii. 87% want to see a visible and significant increase in uniformed patrols from police & council enforcement officers.

### **5. The plan introduction – Cllr Mahamed Hashi, Lambeth Council**

- a. Cllr Hashi presents first – thanks everyone for coming and the organisers. Thanked shop owner for his personal story and his empathy for the need to

- address the causes behind ASB/crime. Thanks MPs, Leader of the Council and Brixton BID for coming.
- b. Started by acknowledging the work done so far by the council and the police, and that its impacts are starting to be felt.
  - c. Highlighted the collaborative dedication the council is taking to tackle ASB with the police and the ACTION on ASB! campaign.
  - d. Talked about the difference between ASB and criminality, the latter being a police-led issue.
  - e. Increase in ASB is not only a London issue – it's a national issue.
  - f. Since September 2023, the council has been working closely with the police. The council has boosted its presence in the Town Centre. It has been proactively carrying out patrols with wardens on a daily basis, undertaking enforcement action and working with the police on weapon sweeps.
  - g. Acutely aware of the context they are operating in – 14 years of austerity and budget cuts and impact of inflation. It predominantly affects low-income neighbourhoods. Leaves council with less funding/vital services. Those with greatest need are most likely to lose out.
  - h. The council is reliant on the police with regards to criminality.
  - i. Must recognise diverse range of issues across the community in Lambeth – must listen to all voices including those not able to make the meeting this evening.
  - j. If you have specific issues, councillors are here to speak to.

## **6. The plan introduction – Superintendent Gabriel Cameron, Metropolitan Police**

- a. Superintendent Gabriel Cameron presents next – pleased to see the campaign is getting traction.
- b. Understands our feelings of anger, frustration and hopelessness. Used example of a resident who said that his 11-year-old daughter had to step over someone using crack to get into their house.
- c. Cameron says he will work to make it better: for where you live and for local businesses, community and children.
- d. Sorry we have to experience the levels of criminality and ASB we are seeing. Cameron says he is committed to addressing it.
- e. Says people are looking to make sure that the police and council, in unity, get it right.
- f. There is a criminal aspect but also an aspect of people suffering from substance misuse, and a lot of ASB is in some way linked to this.
- g. Acknowledged that people are travelling from across London to deal to people who genuinely need help and are vulnerable.
- h. Finds it personally upsetting and embarrassing that this is happening on his watch.
- i. Went through the resources he used to have – dedicated Brixton Town Centre team of 2 sergeants and 21 PCs serving local community. Has had to realign those resources to other areas due to cuts in funding. Has been fighting to get resources back and has managed to get PCs back in the Town Centre, although not to the same level. Including doing some work with specialist colleagues.
- j. Cameron says we all want to see officers walking the Town Centre to gather intel, but also be the friendly face you can interact with.
- k. When he came here as a police officer, he was almost blind to ASB as it's almost part of the fabric. But that's not how it should be. After walking about with Cllr Hashi, he says It was like a veil was lifted and he could see all the issues.
- l. Cameron commits to addressing the issues and coming to ACTION on ASB! meetings.
- m. He says that the plan we are about to see has been pulled together between the police and the council.

## 7. The plan presentation – Inspector Simon Blondell, Metropolitan Police

- a. Thanked everyone for coming. Recognises the impact that these issues have on everyone.
- b. Defined what ASB is – behaviour that causes you harassment, alarm or distress – behaviour that causes you to live your life in a different way.
- c. Notes that all incidents need to be properly reported (not just email an individual in the police) so that the data is officially logged. Presented slide showing ways to report. This data is used to bid for resources.
- d. Reviewed the ACTION on ASB survey:
  - i. Drug dealing is top of their priorities – operations have commenced on drug dealing.
  - ii. Drug use – people have reported that officers have walked past drug use happening and have done nothing. Simon says, ‘not on his watch’. This message has been reinforced with officers.
  - iii. Begging and aggressive begging – Blondell notes that this tends to be linked to drug dealing and use – it flows through much of the rest of the list of ASB issues (eg public defecation). If you address drug dealing and use it will have an impact on addressing other ASB issues.
- e. Went through what the police say are the Four P’s which they use to draw up plans:
  - i. Prepare – intelligence gathering including these meetings and from partners such as public protection teams at the council and drug referral teams etc.
  - ii. Pursue – pursue those doing wrong through targeted means, working with the council and other agencies. Last Friday day of action in Brixton Town Centre (business crime reduction focus – ie shoplifting) with significant results. Intend to hold more of them moving forward.
  - iii. Protect – protecting the vulnerable, including drug users and homelessness, working with drug referral and homelessness teams. Officers have made a total of 68 referrals to drug addiction services since the last meeting in November but cannot guarantee that these individuals take up this offer for support.
  - iv. Prevent – Nomad cameras are cameras that don’t record, but feed into a tablet device which officers monitor when they are on duty. Nomad camera now at either end of Brixton Station Rd. Drug dealers already arrested as a result. Looking into instigating an approach which has been successful by the Met Police in Goldhawk Road, West London, to tackle e-bikes/scooters being abandoned in the street. Requires issuing a Community Protection Notice (CPN) to TfL and other organisations responsible for premises like tubes and owners of bike companies. They are subject to fines if they do not comply. It’s had a notable impact in Goldhawk Road.
- f. Runs through the locations of crime:
  - i. ‘Near McDonalds’ is noted as one of the top areas of crime in Brixton. McDonalds is a licensed premises because they serve food overnight. Last time license was reviewed was 2019. Review instigated and the premises are now subject to 17 new conditions to reduce ASB, including things like adding digital locks to toilets which were being used to take drugs.
  - ii. Note: licensing is a joint partnership between the police and council.
- g. Actions since last ACTION on ASB! meet in November 2023:
  - i. 40 arrests in the four Brixton wards.
  - ii. 68 drug addiction referrals.
  - iii. 28 Community Protection Notices or Warnings issued. There are three stages – (1) warning; (2) notice issued if there is a breach; (3) Criminal

- Behaviour Order which has conditions to ban them from a premises/area. Process has been streamlined to make it a slightly quicker.
- iv. Have established links to share intelligence between the police and Lambeth council.
  - v. Re-initiated joint police patrols with Lambeth Community Wardens.
  - vi. Bi-weekly meetings between Sean Biggart, Lambeth's Head of Public Safety, and Inspector Blondell, to share information and emerging issues.

## 8. The plan presentation – Robert Harper, Head of Public Protection, Lambeth Council

- a. Noted that in his time at Lambeth that this is the best attended public meeting he has been to, which demonstrates the strength of feeling and thanked organisers.
- b. His role is to bring together the Community Safety Partners to deliver around the [Safer Lambeth Partnership](#) priorities. One of the principle priorities is ASB. The partnership includes British Transport Police, health partners, the fire service and housing partners.
- c. He chairs ASB case reviews from [Community Trigger](#) applications – which are held when someone has reported ASB or a crime at least three times in the last six months. Encouraged everyone at the meeting to keep using community triggers if people feel they are experiencing repeated ASB, to ensure panels are convened and the issue dealt with. At community trigger panel hearings, the applicant has the opportunity to explain the impact the issue has had on them, their family and wider community. The second part of the case review is about developing an action plan to deal with it.
- d. He chairs [Vulnerable Victims of Anti-Social Behaviour](#) monthly panel meetings. Makes sure that residents who are most vulnerable receive support.
- e. He is the co-chair of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) ASB Forum – share good practice across London to try and implement it here in Lambeth. Encourages creativity around solving these issues across London.
- f. Encourages everyone to tell them what more they can do to tackle ASB.
- g. Encourages everyone to [report issues](#). States they have to prove persistence of issues in order to have Brixton shown as a hotspot for ASB and crime in order to get more resources.
- h. Asks that we [use Lambeth's complaint processes](#) if those reporting channels are not working.
- i. Substance use is a significant driver of ASB. Combatting drugs partnership was launched in November last year and is chaired by Lambeth's Director of Public Health, with a role to target the causes of drug misuse. We know that there are drug users who are being criminally exploited and part of the public health approach is to disrupt those markets and try to help vulnerable people who are addicted to access support services. Since November last year [Thames Reach](#) has been commissioned to deliver an outreach service to engage with and refer drug users to support services. It's a small team (two engagement workers and one manager) but it is bolstered by Lambeth Public Protection and the police.

## 9. The plan presentation – Sean Biggart, Head of Public Safety, Lambeth Council

- a. Since last meeting, have conducted weapon sweeps – knives and drug paraphernalia found.
- b. From Q1 2024 (April to June):
  - i. Police will reintegrate the Town Centre Team with 1 sergeant and 8 constables.
  - ii. Continue engagement with vulnerable substance misusers.
  - iii. Continue enforcement activity where necessary.
  - iv. Undertake more proactive patrols.
  - v. Continue to attend weekly meetings with the police.
  - vi. Undertake 'days of action' with Brixton BID and other organisations.



- vii. Continue to engage with the community.
- viii. Strengthen links with British Transport Police to tackle travelling crime and begging.
- a. Please keep reporting acts of criminality and anti-social behaviour – presented which partners to report to (council, environment enforcement team, police partners).
  - i. Drug dealing and use, acts of criminality and aggressive begging – [report to police](#)
  - ii. Littering, flytipping, human/dog poo clean up – [report to council waste service](#)
  - iii. Drug misuse – report to public health
  - iv. E-bike and scooter obstructions – [report to highways](#)

## 10. Community feedback on plan

- a. Resident from Brixton Terrace – At the heart of ASB in Brixton. Issues such as crack smoking on resident's doors, toileting (urinating and defecation) and drug dealers in their doorways who do not allow residents into their homes. Last few months have been terrible. Working with police – doing ok but needs more to be done. One part of the building is getting better. Behind the building, something new has happened – tents have appeared which is also worrying. Grateful for what the police are doing.
- b. Resident from Electric Ave Resident's Association and Sleepless Brixton – A thank you for the organisers. It feels like part of what we are dealing with is that Brixton has become a place to visit to undertake ASB/crime. Closely linked to decades of poor licensing and significant underuse of existing powers. It has made it a place where drug users come from other places in London, along with mayhem of weekend nights. It is seen to be a place where that kind of stuff is okay. But as residents, none of us feel valued for the custom we bring. Footfall more important to council than retained value. On reporting, we have given up as reports are not being taken seriously.
- c. Resident – teaches criminology and wants us as a collective to think about drugs. Clear that police have limited resources. Encourage police to think innovatively. Suggests a council/police run drug use room – where outreach workers can also be in attendance, where it is safe and where people using can be connected to resources which may help them with their addiction. This method has been trialled to good success elsewhere and we need to think innovatively like this.
- d. Resident – disappointed in plan – it feels like a revolving door. We need to acknowledge the work the community has already done over many years. Need to recognise and value the community for what they've already contributed. But we are back here again. What she had been looking for in the plan was collaboration. Only collaboration she saw at this meeting was between the police and the council not the community. What's the new engagement approach? If it's not new, how will it be done. The community will stop participating if we never see results or a change of plan. Find resources in the community, but not for free – that is exploitation. We need guidelines of what engagement looks like. That plan should have been about co-design and co-production with the community. Windrush Square is turning into crack city.
- e. Resident – states that her front garden and those of her neighbours where she lives are a hotbed of prostitution. No mention of prostitution in the plan. Affects this resident as human excrement and condom wrappers everywhere and her kids can't play there. Police said they know about it but don't have resources to deal with it – advised her to put up some gates.
- f. Resident – agreed with previous contribution about need for community engagement – how many more people in the room do you need to see?, how much you need more help from the community? Involve people in the room.

- g. Resident – concerned parent. Would like police to hold an assembly with the school kids at her child’s school and tell them why drug taking is not a good thing. Get the kids on board knowing the dangers of drugs. Also, what are the police doing about driving out the drug dealers? Presented an innovative and interesting idea – tannoy in Brixton station road which broadcasts things like, ‘you can’t use drugs in this area’, ‘no begging in this area’ and ‘move on’. Lastly, doesn’t know her councillors – they need to be more visible and do more to help.
- h. Resident – All of this feels like another tick box exercise. Doesn’t feel like the police or council have listened. Has already spoken to councillors and nothing has happened. LTNs have encouraged ASB. Outside church people are taking drugs, people’s homes being broken into, people being attacked. Have tried to get the police to work with the council to explain that the LTNs are making it dangerous for women and young women who can’t be collected in an Uber at night, for example.
- i. Resident from Electric Avenue – Commented on reaction times of the police. Twice in the last five weeks saw acts that he thought would end in death or serious injury. He saw a man in a balaclava with a knife in a dispute with a market trader. The police took 28 mins to arrive. Electric Lane, three drug users were holding down another drug user with a block of wood – they laughed when he said they would call the police. Presented another interesting and innovative idea – can we get reaction times down by not just using cars – ie have police arrive faster on mountain bikes etc?
- j. Resident – never seen Brixton like this in decades of living here. ‘If my grown children were young now, I don’t know what I would do’. Central Brixton resident. Street she lives in was noted by the council’s scrutiny committee as an area to watch a year ago, but nothing has happened since, and nothing has changed in terms of ASB levels. This evening is a culmination of all the reporting, all the asks from residents, and we are just back at square one. It’s not just drug users, its people visiting Brixton and peeing in the streets who come to have a good time. Also heard nothing about women’s safety in the plan presented. The other night she walked past three groups of around 50 guys in total down Atlantic Road dealing drugs with dogs off leads. Wants to know when she can go out of her house for 30 mins and not come across someone poeing, someone taking drugs, someone dealing drugs, someone prostituting themselves, someone peeing, being insulted, being aggressively begged at and being told to F-off. The only time she saw concrete action was when we took the council to the ombudsman.
- k. Resident from Ferndale Rd – the telephone boxes are a real issue. The cubbyholes at M&S where people dealing/using are very concerning. Worried for her own safety. Runs her own business and has to come home late sometimes and will often walk in the middle of the road to not have to walk past the men taking and dealing drugs. We need to do something now. Not in a quarter’s time or later this year. Now.
- l. Resident near Coldharbour Lane – victim perspective. The man who killed the woman in Stockwell also attacked her a few days prior. Sad that Met Police are still in special measures. Still has a vote of no confidence in Met Police. Get back to having meetings monthly with the community. We seem to be repeating the same patterns over and over again. We need to work closely with the community.
- m. Resident who lives and works in Lambeth. Completely disappointed in the plan. Lacked strategy, lacks a plan with any credibility. Says you aren’t really aware what is going on this borough. The turnout shows the willingness to work with the police and council, but when the community comes out time and time and time after time, we walk away feeling, what was all that about? What did we achieve? What’s happening on Electric Ave and Brixton Station Road is out of control. The plan was like sticking a plaster on a broken airplane wing. We need to see community consultation. We need to see statistics that show performance that has been successful. The figures and the drafts that were put up were very weak.

- We want the local councillors to use their surgeries to tell you what's happening and start telling us what you want us to do. Less talk – start doing.
- n. Resident from Herne Hill – Had similar meetings in Herne Hill. Same issues as Brixton. We know who the culprits are, the police do, but there seems to be a barrier to doing anything about it, either give them the help they need or get them off the street. Police and council seem to have thrown in the towel on Brixton Station Road. So much blatant ignoring of the law. The message it sends to the community is that Lambeth doesn't care. Message to the councillors and MPs – when you get a gap growing between the community and authorities, and a gap between the reality and rhetoric from those in authority, you've lost the community.
  - o. Resident from Herne Hill – every day at the Rec on Brixton Station Road. Shoplifting is brazen, and what is the logic of just never interjecting? Went to a place in the market where for £35 you can come and drink all night. This is a licensing issue and it should not be acceptable. No wonder people are behaving disgustingly.
  - p. Resident – general feeling of being unsafe. Friend was mugged at 5.30pm in the evening. Was pushed into a wall for his phone outside Iceland. Feels intimidated. She refuses to hold her girlfriend's hand in the area due to recent violence against the LGBTQ+ community. There's drug use on our doorsteps. You are more likely to get ticketed by the litter police than you are if you were smoking crack in the area.
  - q. Resident – Had someone close to her area being shot. Went to a preventing knife crime event and on the way home someone was stabbed. So, she asks, how much more data do you actually need in order to take action? We are begging you to tell us what you need to do. And we are begging you to get the resources and fix this. She has been coming to meetings like this since she was six years old – she is now 19 and she does not want to bring up children in the area.
  - r. Resident – very pathetic excuse for a plan. There was one slide that had a chart about everything that has already gone before. Walks home every day with her small child past groups of men taking crack. These are very serious problems and they need to get people out on the streets, cleaning up the streets and looking after residents. Council just talked about data and panels and no one cares. This was disappointing to spend a couple of hours to be told a series of platitudes and excuses from the police and council.
  - s. Resident – Question about youth engagement. We want to know what's happening for youth engagement? What are other organisations that the police and council are working with?
  - t. Resident – lived here for 30 years. Disappointed with the response in the plan. The only way we will get anything done is to keep pressure up on the council and the police. It's all of you who make it happen.
  - u. Resident – What are we doing to prevent young people from becoming involved in all of these patterns of behaviour? Hope we are investing in young people, youth services and clubs. What disruption is happening at a higher level, rather than just arresting people on the street?

#### **11. ACTION on ASB! feedback on plan – Peter Impey**

- a. Disappointed in what was presented – we've not seen a plan. We've worked hard to try and get the police and the council to work together and this was not what was expected. Want to see quick wins. We asked for a plan with short-, medium- and long-term goals with measurable actions that we use to hold the police and council to account. It was a reiteration of what is already being done.
- b. We must as a community keep the pressure on. Sometimes it feels we are being ground down in the hope that we will stop raising these issues, but we cannot stop. We want more people at the next meeting – we must keep the pressure up and the accountability on track.



## **12. Response from Metropolitan Police and Lambeth Council – Superintendent Gabriel Cameron and Cllr Mahamed Hashi**

- a. Cameron gets the frustration from the crowd. Said that they cannot disclose details about their sensitive operations but that they have a policing plan to tackle drugs. Also working on the issue of criminality coming in to the area, but again, cannot provide specific details publicly. A dedicated Town Centre team has been secured for Brixton (requested 2 sergeants and 16 PCs) – have secured 1 sergeant and 8 PCs. Was asked if it was good enough, and said if we don't think it's good enough, he won't say it's good enough. Asked for community support to create the plan.
- b. Councillor Hashi acknowledged that the plan wasn't a plan and that it was an update on the work that has been done.

## **13. Response from MPs – Bell Ribeiro-Addy**

- a. Thanked everyone for attending and the organisers, Noted that it's important for everyone to be able to express their views and to be able to hold the police and local elected representatives to account. All the things we heard from you we see every day.
- b. Was worried about the emphasis on reporting – it felt like gaslighting. When someone does something wrong to you, you are the one who ends up with the homework and the forms to fill out, especially when you don't get the correct response back. Even when MPs reported on behalf of their constituents, sometimes we are not responded to and that's not good enough at all.
- c. It is important that the police respond to things when they see them.
- d. We need to look at early intervention and causes of some of these issues.
- e. We do understand the council and police are in a difficult position in relation to resources but that doesn't mean we can't be creative with what we do with what we have. There are ways we can redeploy resources to better suit the community. It's difficult to explain to constituents why six police can jump out of a van to stop one young black boy, but when their house gets robbed, it takes days for somebody to come.
- f. Can understand why people were disappointed with what they heard from the plan presented.
- g. No more engagement is needed to create a plan.
- h. Disappointed not to hear more about women's safety.
- i. Do keep contacting MPs and they will continue to raise your concerns.

## **14. Response from MPs – Helen Hayes MP**

- a. Shared frustrations and agrees that the criticism is justified but added that we need to acknowledge how tough it is to be a police or council officer with constrained resources.
- b. That said, what we saw this evening is not a plan.
- c. The problems with ASB and criminality we are experiencing now in Brixton are the worst she's seen them since living here in 1996. It's a situation that's deteriorated really rapidly. Dramatic downturn in the Town Centre in the last 18 months or so. The council and police have our correspondence on it – we've been raising our concerns about the issues and asking for a plan and strategy.
- d. The intensity of the problem requires an intensive solution.
- e. Pleased to see a new drug outreach service, for the drug and alcohol service.
- f. In order to do a plan, you need to talk about the problems you are trying to solve and who are you doing the plan for.
- g. Concerned about lack of identification on who the plan is for including women, the LGBTQ+ community who have experienced increased hate crime in the last few months, shopworkers/market traders who are at the front line of this every day and of course residents.

- h. Need to give visibility to the plan – needs to be published as a single document, and not look like it's a series of slides that come from two organisations.
- i. The plan needs to have clear actions and timescales and resources attached to the actions.
- j. Needs to have an accountability framework so people can see what's been done.
- k. Need continuity of personnel. We get a team and then it's disbanded – need officers committed over a period of time to re-establish trust.
- l. Good intentions and did see some new things, but need something coherent, measurable and deliverable.
- m. Quick wins also needed – have been asking for large recycling bins at the library to be taken away for 18 months (now gone) It took a long time to make this happen. Brixton Terrace railings erected – about to be derailed by TFL objection to the planning application. Need some joint working so the different parts of the public sector that have a role to play aren't frustrating each other's intentions when those intentions are to keep residents safe.
- n. More working together and publishing a plan is what I hope we can take away from this meeting.

### 15. Response from MPs – Florence Eshalomi MP

- a. Thanks everyone for attending. Shows the level of engagement and frustration with what's happening in Brixton.
- b. These are not new issues. We have a chain of correspondence in our inboxes. We get emails on a daily basis. These are the key things that come up in our advice surgeries.
- c. Appreciates that there have been funding cuts to the police and council that have disproportionately hit areas like Lambeth but there are things we can do to mitigate issues and get quick wins.
- d. Some of these things I've seen before. Growing up in Brixton, she had woken to look outside and see a blue police tent over a dead body. Now she's a mother of two young kids and is scared to walk to Brixton market. Families were stopping having parties in Brixton Rec because it is so unsafe – there's open drug dealing going on. We need to change the atmosphere, change the feel.
- e. Additional lighting, or the tannoy idea mentioned by a resident before, are things that could work.
- f. There needs to be a message that Brixton is not for criminality. If you're going to come with your criminality, we don't want you here. And that message needs to go out, and that means increasing police patrols.
- g. Issue of officer abstraction raised with the Mayor of London two weeks ago. Whenever there are events in Central London, we lose our police officers – that needs to stop. Have raised this directly with the police commissioner. We need them in Lambeth.
- h. We need to make sure we are talking to our other agencies, such as health partners (South London and Maudsley Hospital), private landlords and housing associations.
- i. Urged the panel to work with the community. MPs are here to support too.

### 16. Meeting close

- a. Chair thanked panel and attendees for attending.
- b. Call for anyone who would like to get involved to [sign up as a volunteer](#).
- c. Thanks to St Matthew's Church Building Management Charity for allowing the meeting to be held in their hall.