

## Lambeth LGBT Forum Minutes 11.03.04.

**Present:** Andy, Jane, Tim, Nick & Steve.

**Apologies:** Lee & Billie

**Web site:** The basic framework is now there and Matt (web site builder) has suggested that the site should go live on 1 June. Andy wants to receive our comments on what is already there etc. to pass on to Matt. Please do this as soon as possible. Steve said he would ask a friend to look at it (the friend is a script writer).

### **Hard-on at Crash**

This is a private members fetish club that has moved from Southwark to Crash, Vauxhall opening 4 June 2004. Andy reported that the police don't see it as a policing issue. The meeting had concern for the safety of members queuing to get in outside the club to get in. By the nature of these things it takes a long time to gain entry even though people will have registered as members before the night. There was also a question about the safety of people leaving the venue in the early hours of the morning. Andy agreed to raise these issues with the relevant people.

### **Visit of Commander Quinn**

Commander has asked if he could visit some of the venues on 4 June. He wants to see the community that he has to police. Lee and Steve will Join Andy to escort the commander of Lambeth Police around the venues. Meet at Kennington at 8pm.

This will be an opportunity for the LGBT Forum to gain the ear of the Commander, so if anyone has any issues they would want to raise, please let Lee or Steve know. Certainly the meeting raised the question of the commitment of Lambeth Council to Lambeth LGBT Forum. It feel like the forum is a Lambeth Police affair.

**GHB:** This is a class "c" drug; it is available in Soho and often bought over the internet. Its use is now common in the clubs. It can also be very dangerous if wrong doses are taken. Andy has arranged for police outreach work 2 nights per month to be done outside the clubs informing people of the dangers and the consequences etc. It is hoped that the club officials will also be more careful about what punters bring into their premises. If the UK follow the US then after two reported cases the clubs could be shut down.

**City Techs:** Nick reported that the Herne Hill Forum are to make a protest at Lambeth Town Hall in June to put pressure on the council to bring back into Lambeth City Techs bringing further education and opportunities to young people. Nick felt it would be good if we could demonstrate that LGBT young people would be interested in this as well. Nick agreed to email to Andy the info and Andy agreed to make contact with Rachael at Energy (THT).

**Monitoring of 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting:**

Andy reported that people are not currently using the scheme. It was felt that there was a general reluctance by people to report something that will be dealt with by the police in case of recrimination. Andy said that it was his job to monitor the scheme and that we should run with it for 12 months. Tim felt that we need people out there in the venues etc to take down the reporting rather than to expect them to come to a given place to report the crime.

**Internal Police Phobia:**

Andy shared with the meeting the incident that happened recently where two gay policeman were attacked in Kennington. The 2 policeman felt that they were not properly treated from within the service and it has been reported by them to the GPA.

**Other Business:**

We returned to the question of the lack of real support from Lambeth Council for Lambeth LGBT Forum. It was agreed that Tim would draft a letter and circulate to the rest of us for comment. Hard questions need to be asked. We do need a dedicated officer at Lambeth Council to deal with all LGBT issues. The LGBT community in Lambeth will be larger than even the "Black" Community and therefore it is time we started shouting. If there is nothing coming from Lambeth then perhaps we need to make it public that Lambeth Council does not support us.

**Date of next meeting: 9 July 2004, 2pm Palace Road Surgery, SW2**

Steve 12.05.04