

Greater Finaghy Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting
Benmore, Erinvale and Orpen Areas
22nd September 2014

Attendance: Jim Ross, Helen Smith, Anne Cochrane, Eddie Cairns, Billy Marshall, Sheila Close, Martin Mulholland, Dennis Patterson, Harry Smith, Grainne O'Hare, Brial Mc Laren, Gordon Wilkinson

Apologies: Raymond Stewart, Matthew Russell, Colin Patterson, Tom Ekin

Police Reports: Statistics were given for the time period 19/5/2014 – 20/09/2014 for Orpen, Benmore and Erinvale. Please find statistics attached.

Matters Arising

Benmore Stats

21 incidents in total. These included 4 calls regarding suspicious activity, 4 thefts, 2 incidents of criminal damage, 6 incidents of ASB, 1 burglary and 4 incidents classed as 'other'. One particular incident was discussed where rogue traders were operating in Geeragh Place distributing flyers advertising Memphis Home Improvements. The traders were obtaining money for work which was not being carried out. One arrest has been made. Also, a motorcycle was taken from Kinnegar Road. There was a hate incident reported in Ramore where spray paint saying 'locals only' was sprayed on the wall of a house. The 6 incidents of ASB included loud music being played in Benmore Drive, incidents around the Bonfire and youths throwing eggs at windows.

Erinvale Stats

7 incidents in total. These included 1 theft, 3 incidents of criminal damage, 2 incidents of ASB and one call classed as 'miscellaneous'

The theft which was reported was the theft of a wheelie bin however Eddie Cairns informed the group that often residents think their bin has been stolen when actually it may have fallen in to the back of the bin lorry when the bins were being emptied, however it needs to be reported to the police in order to get a new bin from the council. The incidents of criminal damage included a car being damaged and a house and car being pelted with eggs in Erinvale Drive. It is thought that this incident may have been racially motivated and so classed as a hate crime. The incidents of ASB included the discovery of a knife in a garden. This may have been connected to the damage of a car in the area.

Orpen Stats

6 incidents in total. These included 1 assault, 1 incident of criminal damage, 1 burglary and 3 incidents classed as 'suspicious'. One incident of assault included a young person hit in the face with a brick. This is an ongoing investigation. 1 burglary involved a creeper burglary where a car was taken in Orpen Road.

NIHE Report

No member of NIHE available at the meeting.

Other Business

Eddie Cairns enquired as to why an incident in The Vines was not discussed where a burglary took place. Sgt Mc Laren stated that he would investigate what this did not appear on the statistics.

Several members of the group expressed concern that they had not seen any neighbourhood officers in the area for quite a while. Insp Wilkinson gave an update on 'Service First' and stated that this was probably the reason why the residents have not seen a police presence, coupled with officers on training, annual leave and sick leave. Service first has changed the way everyday policing is carried out. Harry stated that the community was not involved in any consultation regarding service first and now as a result community morale is low as police are rarely seen in the area. He also stated that there may be a risk that crime levels in the area will rise if there is no visual police presence in the area. Several group members agreed that it may be beneficial to send a letter to the PCSP voicing their concerns with service first.

Dennis Patterson gave an update on the investigation being carried out by the HET on the murder of Ken Campbell in Finaghy Community Centre.

Next Meeting

24th November 2014