

Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting
Benmore, Erinvale and Orpen Areas
23rd April 2012

Attendance:

10 Community representatives
Harry Smith (Benmore Community Development Association)
Insp Gordy Wilkinson,
Sgt Brian Mc Laren
Councillor Tom Ekin

Apologies:

4 Community representatives
Keith Addy, Belfast City Council
Colin Smyth, NIHE

Introductions were made by everyone stating who they were and in what capacity they were attending the meeting.

Members attending the meeting were reminded of confidentiality and that when discussing issues that peoples names should not be used.

Police Reports: Sgt Brian McLaren presented statistics for each of the areas for the period 23/02/2012 – 22/04/2012. During lengthy discussion a number of issues were discussed which included;

- Sgt McLaren stated that the statistics were quite low but they were expected to increase with the brighter nights coming.
- An issue was raised about a disturbance in Hollymount, Erinvale. When this was reported the call handlers were found to be unhelpful and it was felt that this experience may discourage people from reporting incidents. Insp Wilkinson stated that he would follow the incidence up with the Chief Insp regarding the call handling. He did however state that when calls are reported they are put through to a centralised call handling base. The person who answered the call may not have been familiar with the area, however this does not excuse the manner of the call.
- A community representative raised the issue of the closure of the gates in Wederburn / Orpen Park. There have been a few minor incidents with cars around the area. He also asked about the possibility of getting lights and seating in the park. Tom Ekin agreed to follow this up.
- The application for an amusement arcade in Erinvale was raised. This has been approved by planners but not by licensing committee. Tom

Ekin sits on the licensing committee which is trying to develop policy that will give greater weight to the views and wishes of the local community to help objections to stand up in court. This is ongoing.

Council Report

Keith Addy was unable to attend due to other commitments. He did however request that the partnership be informed of Council Wardens being in the area.

NIHE Report

Colin Smyth was unable to attend but advised that there were a small number of ongoing anti-social behaviour cases which the NIHE were currently working on.

AOB

Harry Smith advised that NIHE has agreed, through DSD SPOD funding, to fund a website linking up the areas of Taughmonagh, Benmore, Erinvale and Orpen with regard to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. This should be online in approx 2 weeks.