

Greater Finaghy Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting 25th November 2014

Present

Harry Smith, Dennis Patterson, Jim Ross, Jean Bailey, Eddie Cairns, Smitha Kurian, Sheila Close, Mathew Close, Anne Cochrane, Raymond Stewart, David Elliot NIHE, Brian McLaren PSNI, Gordon Wilkinson PSNI, Johnnie Strong

Apologies

Cecil Kennedy, Tom Ekin, Billy Marshall, Yvonne Morrow, Helen Smith, Colin Patterson

For the minutes

The partnership recorded their sincere condolences to Colin Patterson and his family following the sudden death of his wife Arlene Patterson.

Minutes Accuracy

Proposed by Sheila, seconded by Anne and agreed

Matters arising

None

Police reports

Benmore Area

Sgt Brain McLaren advised of 21 reported incidents throughout the reporting period. He believed this was good as this included figures for the Halloween Period.

He reported 3 cases of criminal damage, 3 instances of theft, 5 incidents of anti social behaviour, 3 reports of acting suspiciously, 1 burglary and 6 "others" associated with neighbourhood disputes.

Brian outlined a particular incident (burglary) which occurred in Ramore Park and was currently under investigation. Community representatives were reminded of the need to be vigilant particularly at night. He suggested to check regularly with older people and to report any suspicious activity to police immediately.

Police also took time to advise of a major breakthrough in relation to a recent period of crime associated with thefts from vehicle. Local community police had made a significant arrest which resulted in finding numerous reported stolen goods. This matter was currently being dealt with. Members of the partnership congratulated local police.

Erinvale

Police advised of nine reported incidents in the Erinvale area. This included 1 burglary, 4 ASB cases, 1 theft, 1 "other" and 2 incidents of Criminal damage. Within these categories the following incidents had occurred, 2 incidents when paint was sprayed on two vehicles, distraction burglary, fireworks in Wedderburn Park, ringing doorbells, stolen wheelie bin.

Following discussion members felt it would be useful if the Christmas magazines detailed crimes such as distraction burglaries and theft from Vehicles. This would provide all residents with crime prevention advice in the run up to Christmas.

Matt provided details of when one Erinvale resident that had encountered difficulties getting police to come out to an incident. The resident was disappointed with the response he received from call handling. Matt provided Insp Wilkinson with details so that he could follow up.

Orpen Park

Police reported the following incidents in the Orpen area. A garage was broken into with items including a generator stolen. An empty house was broken into and items stolen. 3 wheelie bins stolen and 6 thefts from vehicles. Reference was also made to two burglaries in Finaghy Road South.

Johnnie raised issues associated with the gate at Wedderburn Park. He advised that he believed someone was unlocking this gate after it had been locked closed. Young people continue to try scaling the gates and fence. Johnnie was concerned that some young person could be seriously hurt doing this. He understood that anti-slip paint cannot be used but believed the Council could extend the height thus making it impossible to climb. Brian McLaren agreed to follow this up with Ricky Rice from the Council. The closing of these gates have had an extremely positive impact in reducing ASB in this area. As such, it was important to ensure these gates are being effectively monitored.

NIHE

David Elliot reported that he had two ongoing neighbourhood disputes but was confident these would be successfully closed. David confirmed that he liaised regularly with police and the Council. David advised that Housing Executive tenants shouldn't hesitate to contact him if they are suffering from ASB or other anti-social behaviour

Council

No report from the Council apologies sent.

Community

A number of issues to be raised by the community were dealt with earlier in the meeting.

AOB

Anne Cochrane drew to the attention of members a mail shot she had received from Councillor Claire Hanna. The news sheet contained details of how a number of schools including Finaghy Primary School would collectively lose £237,879 as a result of the education minister, John O'Dowd's common funding proposals.

Date of next meeting

Monday 27 January 2014