

**Greater Finaghy Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting
Benmore, Erinvale and Orpen Areas
1st July 2013**

Attendance: Harry Smith, Grainne O'Hare, Matthew Russell, Sgt Brian Mc Laren, Con Gerard Keenan, Anne Cochrane, Sheila Close

Apologies: Helen Smith, Cecil Kennedy, Keith Addy, David Elliot, Jim Ross, Cecil Kennedy, Ria Jordan, Robert Best, Johnnie Strong, Raymond Stewart, Yvonne Morrow, Dennis Patterson

The chairperson opened the meeting. Due to difficulties associated with police being unable to attend the last meeting which was originally scheduled for last week, tonight's meeting was rearranged at short notice. The chairperson noted that over 25 local people had turned up last week.

Minutes

Last minutes were recorded as true and accurate, proposed by Matthew Russell and seconded by Anne Cochrane.

Matters Arising

No matters arising that will not be dealt with by the agenda.

Police Reports: Statistics were given for the time period 18/4/2013 – 26/06/2013 for Benmore, Orpen and Erinvale. Please find statistics attached.

Benmore Stats

33 incidents in total.

8 domestic incidents were reported, some including harassment issues. A couple of arrests were made in relation to some of these incidents.

There were 3 cases of criminal damage. One house had all of its house and car windows smashed. This is an ongoing investigation. There was also a report of a stone thrown at a window by a nine year old. This was reported to his parents who have since paid for the damage.

There were 2 incidents of theft. One of a scooter from Benmore drive, possibly linked to a report of suspicious activity in Erinvale where two males were reported to be seen pushing a scooter in the area. The other report of theft was a motorbike stolen from Kinnegar Road. This motorbike had locks fitted so the bike must have been lifted and driven away.

There were 13 incidents of Anti Social Behaviour. These included reports concerning Locksley Lane where youths were reported for throwing bottles at the nearby apartments. These ASB incidents also included reports of noisy parties, a group of approx 30 youths making their way from Mount Aboo into Orpen and also an incident at Benmore Nursery where youths were reported messing with the children's toys and drawing obscene pictures and sectarian graffiti on the wall.

There were 2 cases of suspicious persons and vehicles. One report was of a suspicious male carrying a ladder and one was of a suspicious white transit van. Police attended and nothing untoward was found.

There were 2 burglaries reported. Both were in Mount Aboo. One house had its rear window smashed and a suspect was found and detained by a neighbour and has since been arrested. The other report was of someone entering through a kitchen window however nothing was taken.

Erinvale Stats

12 incidents in total.

2 cases of Anti Social Behaviour including bottle thrown at a roof of a house. Also an incident of youths drinking and causing annoyance.

There were 2 incidents of suspicious activity including 2 males pushing a scooter. This incident may possibly be related to a theft of a scooter in Benmore during the same time frame. Police attended but found nothing.

There were 6 incidents categorised as 'other' which included neighbour disputes, vehicles driving recklessly, cars racing and reports of sectarian slogans on a bonfire.

There were also 2 domestic incidents.

Orpen Stats

8 incidents in total.

There were two incidents of Anti Social Behaviour involving the erection of flags.

There was one incident of criminal damage where a brick was found on top of a bin belonging to a person from an ethnic minority group. This incident occurred around the same time that the soldier was killed in England.

There were 3 cases of suspicious activity, one of which involved an elderly male allowing remote access to his computer by a third party who he then believed to be suspicious.

One incident was categorised as 'other' and this involved a neighbour dispute.

Lastly there was one report of a theft of furniture by tenants of a rented property.

NIHE Report

David Elliot was unable to attend however he provided an email which read,
"Things from an NIHE point of view have been very good in the area. I have kept the case at Innishowen Drive open as it is complex and may need monitored, however having spoken with neighbours of the accused things seem to have quietened down. The other 2 complaints are from two tenants in Benmore Drive who have made allegations and counter allegations against one another.

Complaints Received May/June 2013	No.
Noise	1
Gardens	
Criminal Behaviour	
Verbal Abuse	
Harassment	
Damage to Property	

Pets & Animals	
Racial Abuse	
Intimidation	
Nuisance from Vehicles	
Drugs	
Alcohol or Substance abuse	
Boundary Disputes	
Domestic Violence	
Nuisance from Business Use	
Nuisance in a Public Place	
Rubbish Dumping	
Sectarian	
Multiple	2
Total	3

Source of Complaint:

Tenant: 3
 Non Tenant:
 Anon:
 Other:
Total 3

BCC Report

Keith Addy was unable to attend and had sent apologies. Harry reported that Keith had been in touch on a number of occasions since the last meeting. Harry advised that two new safer neighbourhood officers have been employed by Belfast City Council. It was unclear as to the remit and range of functions that could be provided by these officers but Keith was confident that the officers will be proactively working with the community sector to problem solve issues as they arise.

Community Report

Community reps praised police and agencies for their work. A number of community concerns have already been dealt with by police and other agencies. They made reference to the importance of sharing information between agencies and the police and welcomed the fact that a number of arrests had occurred

Other Business

Sgt Brian Mc Laren discussed the possibility of locating a RAPID (Remove All Prescription and Illegal Drugs) bin somewhere in the area where people can dispose of both unwanted prescription and illegal drugs without fear of reprisal. Possible locations discussed included the health centre, library, chemist, etc. Brian will be working further on this.

The chairperson advised that the magazine was ready for distribution and arrangements are being made to distribute them

The chairperson advised that the website was now being updated on a regular basis and interest is excellent

Next Meeting

To be confirmed

