

**Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting
Benmore, Erinvale and Orpen Areas
25th February 2013**

Attendance: Sheila Close, Yvonne Morrow, Johnny Strong, Tom Ekin, Anne Cochrane, Ria Jordan, Mary T O'Neill, Pete Murray, Keith Addy, Dave Elliott, Matthew Russell, Dennis Patterson, Grainne O'Hare, Harry Smith, Raymond Stewart

Apologies: Kevin Mc Veagh, Helen Smith, Billy Marshall, Colin Patterson, Robert Best

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

Police Reports: Statistics were given for the time period 24/11/2012 – 21/02/2013 for Benmore, Orpen and Erinvale. Please find statistics attached.

Last minutes were recorded as true and accurate, proposed by Helen Johnny Strong and seconded by Anne Cochrane.

Matters Arising

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

Police Reports: Inspector Wilkinson and Sgnt McLaron presented statistics were for the time period 24/11/2012 – 21/02/2013 for the Benmore, Orpen and Erinvale areas. Please find statistics attached.

Benmore Stats

55 incidents in total

There was an increase in the number of ASB related incidents (17 incidents), however many of these were linked to the bad weather and involved people throwing snowballs. Some of these appeared to have a racial undertone against the Filipino community. An investigation is ongoing.

An update was given on the incident a number of months ago where a member of the Filipino Community was seriously assaulted. Three of the four youths have had files sent to the PPS. There has been a decrease in reports of ASB in Mount Aboo since this happened.

Erinvale Stats

10 incidents in total

2 incidents of ASB which involved youths snowballing

1 report of suspicious activity was reported in Rathmore Avenue however PSNI could find nothing untoward.

Residents of Erinvale who were present at the meeting stated that they thought the area had been very quiet recently.

Orpen Stats

3 incidents in total

Orpen has been extremely quiet since the last meeting 3 months ago with only 3 incidents being reported. One report involved a house alarm activating, one call was a concern for safety and one report was an assault which was dealt with to everyone's satisfaction. The group discussed how the closing of the gates to Wederburn Park in Orpen seemed to be having a very positive impact

on the number of incidents reported to PSNI. Residents from Orpen who were present at the meeting stated that the difference has been amazing.

NIHE Report

Dave has had 3 new reports of ASB, 2 noise complaints and one racial report. He has been able to close 6 cases. Charlene Norrell has been able to recover another 5 flats in the multi stories and one in Innisowen.

BCC Report

No other reports other than those which were already mentioned in Mount Aboo. There is a celebration event on Wednesday with the Chinese Welfare Association. Everyone is welcome.

Other Business

Anne Cochrane enquired where the crowd of youths that used to gather in Wedderburn Park had moved to. She suggested that they had possibly moved to Benmore, which may be why their statistics had increased. Another possibility for the group not gathering in Wedderburn Park may have been the flag protests. She stated that it would be interesting to see if the group returned in the lighter nights.

Dennis wished a minute to be noted about his unease at the PSNI coming in to the Community Centre whilst there is a significant dissident republican threat on them. This has been noted. Insp Wilkinson stated that they are updated regularly on intelligence and there is nothing to suggest that there is an imminent risk in the Balmoral area. Should this change, the situation would certainly be reviewed as the PSNI will not knowingly put any members of the public at any risk. The Chairperson with the support of members advised the police that they were very welcome in the Centre and hoped the time will never come when they had to stay away from community facilities as a result of a terrorist threat from dissident republicans

Next Meeting

22nd April 2013 at 7pm in Finaghy Community Centre