

TIGERS BAY & MOUNTCOLLYER POLICING & SAFETY PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY SAFETY BULLETIN



A Community led Partnership involving Police and other Agencies

Crime?, Anti-Social Behaviour? or Suspicious Activity? - SEE IT?... REPORT IT!!

Report it to local Police on 0845 600 8000 or anonymously on 0800 555 111 (Crimestoppers)

CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL VANDALISED & ROBBED



Schoolchildren, teenagers, families and pensioners are all victims of the current crime wave in the Tigers Bay & Mountcollyer community. A small minority of young people in this area are causing havoc and heartache throughout our community. Currie Primary School, the latest in a string of recent attacks, had to close for a week to clean up the mess left behind following this act of wanton destruction. Sadly the hard work of many pupils over the last year has had to be destroyed as a result of being contaminated with broken glass. Anne Thompson, Principal, was quick to point out that she has taken great comfort from the

parents of many pupils and from community representatives who have rallied round to support the school. Thankfully, police, with the support of this community, are actively pursuing a line of enquiry which will hopefully lead to the prosecution of the individuals responsible for this cruel and horrendous crime. It is important that we don't allow our children to suffer as a result of the criminal and anti-social behaviour of others. If you know anything about this attack on our local school and community, please don't hesitate to contact local police directly at York Road or anonymously through Crimestoppers on the above numbers.



Local Community Petition Supports Police & Agencies

A local petition, expressing support to the victims of crime and demanding an end to criminal and anti-social behaviour in this area was recently organised by the community. Over five hundred local people signed the petition which also expresses community support to the police and other agencies to deal with the crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in this community. This is an overwhelming endorsement to the police and other agencies to continue their partnership work with this community in order that crime and anti-social behaviour can be effectively dealt with..

A Working Partnership Consisting of



*Tigers Bay Interagency Forum
Tigers Bay Concerned Residents Group
North Belfast Com Dev & Transition Group
Tigers Bay & Mountcollyer Community Voice
Duncairn Community Centre*

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



Community Safety Partnership. There are a number of interventions we use to deal with nuisance behaviour and these can take the form of issuing Warning Letters, Mediation and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's). **This year to date we have issued six warning letters in this area.** In cases where despite warnings and the use of other interventions, the anti-social behaviour persists, the Housing Executive may be left with no alternative but to take legal action against the individual/s. Legal action may include:

Possession – The Housing Executive can seek possession of the property where the behaviour of the tenant or a person/s residing in or visiting the property has been guilty of causing nuisance.

Injunction - The Housing Executive has the facility to seek an injunction against a tenant who does not comply with the terms and conditions of their tenancy agreement. An injunction is an order made by the court instructing an individual to stop acting in a certain manner which is causing nuisance. The Housing Executive also has powers to address anti-social behaviour occurring in the locality of Housing Executive premises or estates. In these instances the Housing Executive can seek an injunction against a private tenant or owner occupier.

Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBO) - The Housing Executive, the PSNI and Belfast City Council, may apply to a Magistrates Court for an ASBO. An ASBO is a civil order which prohibits an individual from further acts or conduct that would cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more person not of the same household as the individual. An ASBO may be obtained in respect of any person aged 10 years old and upwards. Breach of an ASBO is a criminal offence and can involve the individual being given a custodial sentence.

If you are experiencing problems associated with anti-social or nuisance behaviour please don't hesitate to contact us on 03448 920 900 and ask for the North Belfast Office.

THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE & THE COUNCIL TAKING ACTION TO SUPPORT THE TIGERS BAY & MOUNTCOLLYER COMMUNITY



Belfast City Council is committed to working in partnership with other agencies and the community to tackle anti-social behaviour in Tigers Bay. Since January 2009, Belfast City Council officers, **through the Get Home Safe Project, have carried out ten joint enforcement patrols in the Tigers Bay area**, with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams from York Road. We carry out these patrols on Friday nights to target areas identified as drinking hotspots by members of the partnership and the wider community. There is regular telephone contact between the joint patrol and community representatives. We also visit local off sales to promote the Off License Code of Practice, the "Are you a Dealer" campaign and training opportunities. Local off sales staff have taken part in training focusing on their legal duty and responsibilities with regard to the sale of alcohol to underage persons and adults buying for underage persons. Any young people caught in possession of alcohol have their names passed to the Youth Diversion Officer at the PSNI and Belfast City Council Community Safety write to inform their parents and warn of the consequences. These patrols have seen a marked reduction in the amount of alcohol young people in Tigers Bay have in their possession and in the antisocial behaviour caused by young people under the influence of alcohol. **Roaming Community Safety Wardens worked in the Tigers Bay area for three months earlier this year.** They received great support from partnership members and the wider community. The wardens dealt with anti-social behaviour, vandalism, underage drinking and other issues with the support of the Policing and Safety Partnership. Belfast City Council have a noise pollution section who respond to problems associated with noisy house parties etc. Excessive noise can make life a misery. It is a source of irritation and stress for many people and can interfere with your rights to peaceful enjoyment in your home. We can offer help and advice. **We will make every effort to resolve the problem informally, but sometimes we may need to take legal action. Remember, don't suffer it! If you are experiencing problems contact us as soon as possible on 90373006.**



Police Supporting Tigers Bay Community Groups

Chief Inspector Muir Clark appeals to community groups and members of this community to continue to work in partnership with York Road Police. The assistance of the public in this area has not only proven to be invaluable in protecting this community but has also helped to bring offenders to justice. Burglaries in the York Road area remain a concern for both the police and the community. From 17 May 2009 we have arrested 12 persons for burglary in the York Road area. In Tigers Bay there have been two domestic and three commercial burglaries, including a particularly vile attack on Currie Primary School which was illegally entered, vandalised and money for a school trip stolen. Police were delighted by the way in which the community came together and names were forthcoming for persons believed to be responsible for this attack. Two juveniles have been interviewed and reports are being prepared for the Public Prosecution Service. Whilst vehicle crime is generally low in Tigers Bay, Police from York Road made nine arrests during the period 17 May 2009 to the 18 June 2009 in relation to vehicle crime. Again members of the public played a significant role in assisting police with roughly half those arrested coming about as a result of calls from the community. Community representatives and members of the public continue to highlight to Police major concerns associated with drugs. As a result, Tigers Bay and Mountcollyer areas continue to feature in our daily and weekly policing activities. Between 24 May 2009 and 15 June 2009 four persons were arrested for the possession of a range of drugs. Police continue to conduct searches throughout the area and encourage the community to use the Tigers Bay & Mountcollyer Policing Partnership's "Squealer on a Dealer" initiative to protect the community from those involved in this criminal activity. York Road Police are incredibly proud to work in partnership with the Tigers Bay and Mountcollyer Community. This area has totally transformed over the last twelve months as has the community's relationship with Police. My neighbourhood officers are now part and parcel of this community and are totally committed to supporting the vast majority of law abiding people. **With your help and support, we can continue to make a real difference in the Tigers Bay and Mountcollyer areas.**

St Pauls Church and Care Home

Some time between 5-6am on Friday the 19th June two persons were seen trying to break into St Paul's Church on the York Road but were unsuccessful due to the alarm being set off. A short time later it was discovered that two cars had been broken into and wrecked at the disabled care home which is behind the Link Resource Centre and beside St Paul's Church. One car belonged to a care worker of the home and the other to one of its residents who has Downs Syndrome and is in a wheel chair. This was a specially adapted disabled car which the wheel chair could be placed in and is his only means of transport. As a result of the damage, the disabled person was confined to their home for five days while the thugs who carried out this act of crime and destruction are able to go where ever they please. If you know anything about these crimes please contact the police.

Fred Cobain MLA Supporting the Bay

North Belfast Ulster Unionist MLA Fred Cobain, has played a core role in supporting the development of the Tigers Bay & Mountcollyer Policing and Community Safety Partnership. With Fred's guidance and support, Harry Smith, his full-time constituency worker, has been working to develop Tigers Bay & Mountcollyer Policing Partnership and a number of other local community based initiatives. Fred totally condemns the recent crime wave in Tigers Bay carried out by a small number of individuals who seem to be completely out of control. The actions of a few individuals have scarred this entire community. Police and other agencies have assured me they will work tirelessly, and in partnership with the community to bring those responsible to justice. If you know anything about these crimes please don't hesitate to contact the police either directly at York Road or, if you prefer, anonymously through Crimestoppers on the numbers below.

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"The CABIN" to stay OPEN despite ROBBERY

Earlier this month "The Cabin" on North Queen Street, was broken into, vandalised and a quantity of money and cigarettes stolen. Significant damage was caused during this burglary, leading to the owner considering closure of this valuable local facility. The roof, suspended ceiling and lighting was badly damaged and stock was strewn across the floor and destroyed. Ominously, attempts were made to light a fire with toilet rolls being stuffed into crisp boxes.



Thankfully those responsible must have been disturbed and a fire was not able to begin or take hold. Should a fire have occurred then the shop and perhaps adjoining buildings could have been totally destroyed resulting in the loss of local businesses, employment and valuable shopping facilities. Yet again criminals have inflicted more hardship on this community but thankfully yet again police are pro-actively pursuing a specific line of enquiry to secure a criminal prosecution. One local person, caught in procession of the

stolen cigarettes, has been charged and is under strict bail conditions which includes no alcohol and not being outdoors after 11pm. Meantime, as a gesture of support, please take the time to do some of your shopping in "The Cabin"

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Crosscollyer Church

Rev Beckett has dedicated most of his working life to serving the Tigers Bay & Mountcollyer community. Many local people, from childhood through to adulthood, have, at some stage or another, required his services. Many parents have been delighted to have their children attend the many activities and summer camps he has organised. Confidentiality and a caring, sensitive, manner make Rev Beckett a popular and respected local figure. Unfortunately Rev Beckett's Church in Crosscollyer Street was recently vandalised and damaged as a result of a burglary. This isn't the first time this has happened but hopefully, with your help it will be the last. **If you know anything about this attack on Rev Beckett's church please don't hesitate to contact police at York Road on 0845699800.**

Mountcollyer Youth Club

This has been a remarkable year for the Youth Club. Thanks to a number of local women from the Tigers Bay area, Mountcollyer Youth Club is open more often for the young people of this area. A summer scheme is being organised which will provide valuable activities and events for young people of this area during the summer. Local volunteers and youth workers have worked tirelessly to ensure our young people have somewhere safe to play and socialise with each other. Unfortunately, the Youth Club has also been attacked by local vandals who damaged and trashed the building in their search for money and valuables. Yet again local children and teenagers suffer as a result of the criminality and anti-social behaviour of a minority of individuals in this area. **If you know anything about this attack on Mountcollyer Youth Club please don't hesitate to contact police at York Road on 0845699800.**