



Saturday 22 November 2008 20:23

Paint and sectarian graffiti daubed on monument

Police are appealing for calm at a sectarian flashpoint in east Belfast - after a gang of youths defaced a war memorial there.

Vandals threw paint and daubed graffiti over the memorial stone and garden on the Lower Newtownards Road.

Police say a gang of youths were seen in the area at about 3am and were chased by an officer who retrieved a number of items for examination.

Tensions were running high on Saturday after the attack.

There were angry scenes when Sinn Fein representatives arrived to condemn the incident and were confronted by local residents.

The PSNI are asking local community leaders to help maintain calm in the area.

80 year old Kathleen McCurrie's husband James was killed by the IRA during clashes in the area in June 1970.

She paid an emotional visit to the defaced memorial earlier described it as her " wee oasis in a built-up city."



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On 22 Nov at 14:41 - Kevin from Canada said:

Disgusting, sickening act from low lifes.

On 22 Nov at 16:23 - Magz from East Belfast said:

This is a TOTAL disgrace...!!! just to provoke the protestant people on the Netownards Road. The police were supposed to have chased youths....but did they go into the short strand to get them..?? I passed the memorial today and seen the damage awful for the families its there for...

On 22 Nov at 18:06 - Brian from Belfast said:

I am a catholic and think this is an absolute disgrace. The people who did this are just a bunch of sick thugs

On 22 Nov at 18:12 - SARAH from SYDENHAM said:

anyone who destroys graves etc should bow their heads in shame.

On 23 Nov at 11:46 - colin from monkstown said:

how dare sf to come onto the loyalist newtownards road to hold a press conference in condemnation of this attack , yes by all means hold it in the sf offices in the short strand where the offenders perpetrated from , but to come onto this road unannounced and with local anger very high what was their point in doing this ? this memorial has been attacked several times by nationalists and republicans , have they no shame ?

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