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PEPPER SPRAY USED AT VILLAGE CARNIVAL

Police take firm action at events marred by violence



CLLR SIAN GWENTLAN

VIOLENCE has marred the aftermath of two village festivals with police called in to break up fights between groups of drunken youths.

The trouble erupted hours after the end of Saturday's Y Felinheli carnival and following Llanllyfni's fair on Monday night.

Around 20 police officers in total were drafted in to quell the violence which broke out along the Y Felinheli beach front and in the middle of Llanllyfni's main street.

Two people have been arrested for public order offences following Monday night's incident and police have issued an arrest warrant for another man from the Caernarfon area.

In Y Felinheli officers issued around six section 27 "dispersal orders", ordering people to leave the village for a period of 48 hours and they have vowed to make further

By ALEX HICKEY

arrests if any more information on Saturday night's violence comes to light.

On both occasions pepper spray was used to break up those involved in the fighting and county councillors and police have blamed the violence on a minority of troublemakers from the Caernarfon area.

Y Felinheli councillor Sian Gwentlan said: "It's a huge shame that these incidents happened at the end of what was an otherwise fantastically successful festival week."

It must be stressed that the festival itself ended at around 4.30pm and the trouble was caused by a tiny minority several hours later, she added.

"Having said that, what happened is inexcusable and we must find ways of curbing this kind of alcohol-related behaviour."

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NOT ACCEPTABLE: PC James Tongue and PCSO Mike Davies on the front at Y Felinheli where a successful carnival day was tainted by a large evening brawl outside a public house where glasses and bottles were hurled

Councillor hits out at 'disgrace' of violence

▼ From page one

haviour. It's a contemporary social problem that affects most towns and villages across Britain at some point or other."

Gardd Fôn landlord Billy Hughes closed his pub at 10pm because of the fighting which had broken out along the beach front and estimated that around 25 people were involved.

He said: "It was outsiders from the village, people from the Caernarfon area, who started the trouble."

The pub's landlady Sharon Todd added: "If the police didn't come along when they did the fighting would have got a lot worse. Glasses were smashed and bottles were thrown but the police did a grand job when they got here."

Llanllyfni councillor OF Huws blamed Monday night's violence on "youths living outside the Nantlle Vale" and labelled their actions a "disgrace".

"We must not allow a silly minority to spoil the enjoyment of Llanllyfni fair that has been coming to the village for many years, and become a great opportunity event."

He went on to call for a visible police presence in Llanllyfni on Saturday for the Bryn Fôn and the Band concert at the village hall and urged them to use their full powers to confiscate alcohol.

"Nobody suspected of creating any trouble will be allowed into the hall, we have never had any trouble in the past as it's a family event," he added.

Y Felinheli community beat manager (CBM) PC Alex Higgins said: "The actions of a few people from outside of Felinheli have managed to cause trouble."

Their actions can ruin a night for everyone else and if this type of violence continues it can call into question the future of these events, he added.

Llanllyfni's CBM, PC Alex Higgins said: "There will be an appropriate police presence at the Bryn Fôn concert on Saturday to try to ensure there is no repeat on Monday night's behaviour."

"Anyone suspected of coming here to cause trouble will be removed from the area."