

Local News

Police Praised In Search For Missing Son

By Richard Sherriff

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The mother of missing Holywood man Martin Kelly said yesterday she was pleased with the progress being made in the search for her son.

Speaking at the launch of a website appealing for any information that might help explain the 21-year-old's disappearance on New Year's Day, Karen Kelly said the family was finally being shown some care and consideration.

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Her comments came after a meeting at police headquarters on Wednesday where it was agreed that a team of Army divers should renew the search for Martin's body on Monday.

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That search will centre on Belfast docks close to where the plumber and part-time barman was last seen after drinking with friends in a nearby pub.

At a balloon launch there on Sunday to publicise Martin's disappearance, Mrs Kelly criticised the support given by the police and said her family had not been treated with the compassion due anyone in such circumstances.

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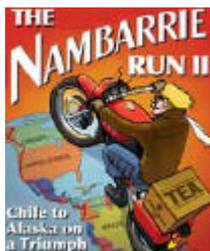
However, after Wednesday's lengthy meeting attended by representatives of the police, Army and Belfast Harbour Commission as well as North Down MP Sylvia Hermon, Mrs Kelly said her faith had been restored. "The meeting was very, very good," she said. "The whole family now knows that the PSNI is actually working for us and with us and they have stated that they will try everything in their power to get Martin back." Searches will now start in the Lagan on Monday morning with six divers, boats and helicopters and they have said that

they will try everything in their power to give me some sort of closure.

"That is a great comfort to us." As passers-by outside City Hall were handed leaflets giving details of Martin's disappearance, lifelong friend Joe McCormick said the website www.ourmartykelly.com offered the chance for people to give any information they might have about him.

"It's for anybody to come forward who can give us any information about this disappearance - anything that might help," he said.

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