Irvine Welsh joins police in praise of North Edinburgh community spirit

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Just after midnight Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm Graham called a hastily arranged press conference outside Fettes Police Station, where he broke the sad news that officers had recovered the body of a young boy in Fife.

The news brought audible gasps from members of the public who had accompanied reporters to the conference.

ACC Graham also praised the public response, saying: "I would like to thank everyone who has responded to these highly unusual events by assisting with searches and other activities in support of this investigation.

"I would also like to acknowledge the overwhelming public response to requests for information, assistance and sightings. As ever, the Police rely on the vital support of those who live and work within our communities."

Acclaimed writer Irvine Welsh who was brought up in the area tweeted: "So sad about wee Mikaeel, but couldn't be more proud of where I come from & the amazing people there who tried everything to help out."