

Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of the Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 20th June 2006.

Present: Councillor Mrs Cains (Chairman); Councillor Dixon; Mr F Russell (Trading Standards); Ms G Corking (DNS); Miss S Johnson and Mr P Bell (LD); Mr K Jarvis and Mr J Thomson (Wolviston Parish Council).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Roberts and Woodhead; C Snowdon (DNS); D Turton (Cleveland Fire Brigade); Inspector Thornton and Sergeant Shallow (Cleveland Police); Mr Menell and Mr N Thomson.

Matters Arising

Minutes 11th April 2006

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2006 were submitted for consideration.

AGREED that the minutes of 11th April 2006 be agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

1. Baby Sleep Quilt – ‘...purchased from Mothercare...’ amended to ‘...purchased locally...’.
2. Doorstoppers – ‘Avon callers and similar callers were considered...’ amended to ‘Expected callers were not considered...’.

Visit to Stockton Blind People’s Voice 23rd May 2006

The Chair and the Secretary reported on the visit to Stockton Blind Peoples Voice (SBPV). Members were shown an I.D. card embossed with Braille used by a member of staff at SBPV. Members discussed that door step callers were a problem in general and advocated the use of Braille on Council I.D. cards for those who visit properties.

AGREED that the Secretary would investigate putting Braille on the Council I.D. cards for those staff visiting properties.

Report of Informal Meeting 16th May 2006

Trips and Falls Day 28th June 2006

Those present had discussed the details of the upcoming Trips and Falls Day to be held on Stockton Market on the 28th June 2006. The Project Officer advised Members of the possibility of sharing the market stall with the Comfort Zone display and their staff if the stall was big enough. The Project Officer also confirmed that Julie Fraser (Older Peoples Representative) from the Primary Care Trust would make a display board for the stall. The Project Officer confirmed that the information from RoSPA had been ordered. The Trading Standards Officer confirmed that the Crime Reduction Team would make a display for the stall.

Members also gave details of their availability for the day.

AGREED that:

1. The Secretary would contact the Markets’ Department to confirm the size of the stall.
2. The Secretary would contact the Fire Service to confirm whether they would be sending their Elderly Persons’ Advocate to help man the stall.
3. The Project Officer G.Corking would coordinate a press release for the event.

Trading Standards

Underage Sales

The Trading Standards Officer reported on underage sales. There had been two sales of butane gas and also two sales of alcohol to volunteers since the last meeting of the Association. The Trading Standards Officer noted how disappointing it was that one of the alcohol sales was a second sale by the same store. It was reported that the alcohol sales took place in one small shop and one national chain.

The Trading Standards Officer reported on a new initiative which would involve the Police doing on the spot fines of £80 in partnership with Trading Standards. At the moment there was no link between the Police and Trading Standards so it was not possible to know if a seller had already been issued with a fixed penalty.

Trading Standards were in the process of issuing underage sales packs, which were funded by the Police, to shops. The shops were required to sign for the pack as proof of receipt.

Face Paints

The Trading Standards Officer reported on a small child who had suffered a reaction to some face paints purchased from a local supermarket. There had been four cases of reactions nationwide and the face paints had been withdrawn by the manufacturer whilst tests were carried out.

Fire Torches

The Trading Standards Officer showed Members a pack of fire torches purchased by a member of the trading standards department after seeing them in a local supermarket. The fire torches were dangerous as they only had a cardboard shield to protect the hand from the flames. Trading Standards had carried tests out on this product and were looking into relating legislation. The manufacturer had been contacted and investigations were ongoing.

Doorstoppers

The Trading Standards Officer reported back on a meeting of the Trading Standards Department, which took place after the Operation Strongbow event. Trading Standards had been looking into a "no cold calling" go test area for Stockton Council and had been liaising with Operation Strongbow. Investigations were ongoing.

The Trading Standards Officer gave details of a presentation to be held at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle on the 13th July by retired police officer Brian Steele and the Officer for Vulnerable Adults Paul Green.

The Trading Standards Officer gave details of an incident involving an 85 year old lady who was conned out of £200. The individuals drove the lady to her bank where she drew out the £200 and handed it over to them. Trading Standards had contacted the bank as banks were required to sign up to an unusual transactions protocol. Members agreed that banks were proactive.

AGREED that the Chair would contact Members and Officers to attend the presentation at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle.

Any Other Business

Members discussed inviting officers from the Crime Reduction Team to future Meetings of Stockton Home Safety Association.

AGREED that the Secretary would contact the Crime Reduction Team to invite them to future meetings.