

Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of the Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 12th September 2006.

Present: Councillor Mrs Cains (Chairman); Councillors Dixon and Woodhead; Mr F Russell (Trading Standards); Mari Rose (CESC); Miss S Johnson (LD).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Roberts; Ms G Corking (DNS); C Snowdon (DNS); D Turton (Cleveland Fire Brigade); Inspector Thornton and Sergeant Shallow (Cleveland Police); Mr K Jarvis and Mr J Thomson (Wolviston Parish Council).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th June 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Trips and Falls Day 28th June 2006

Members discussed the Trips and Falls Day held on Stockton Market. The stall was a success with a steady stream of people taking an interest. The Chair confirmed that letters of thanks had been sent to the Fire Service and Julie Fraser from the Primary Care Trust for the information and help provided on the day. An article and pictures of the day appeared in the Council's internal newsletter Keeping You in Touch.

Report of Secretary

I.D. Cards

The Secretary reported on the further investigation into I.D. cards and the possibility of putting Braille onto the I.D. cards of those visiting properties. The Administration Manager for Stockton Council had agreed that it was a good idea but expressed concerns over whether Braille would work on the existing cards and suggested the possibility of a separate card. It was also explained that the current equipment used for the Council I.D. cards does not have the facility to produce Braille. Members agreed that they wanted further investigations into the possibility of Stockton Blind People's Voice producing the cards for the Council.

AGREED that the Secretary would contact Stockton Blind People's Voice regarding the production of I.D. cards.

Report of Trading Standards Officer

Decorative Garden Spiral

The Trading Standards Officer showed Members a decorative garden spiral which had been purchased locally. A complaint had been made about the spiral as a small child had hurt an eye on the metal wire inside the spiral. The spiral was not classed as a toy but Trading Standards had classed it as "child appealing". The spiral failed the test for the toy standard carried out by Trading Standards. The company had been contacted and the product was withdrawn. The Trading Standards Officer informed Members that the investigations were ongoing and there was a possibility of a prosecution.

Griddle Pan

The Trading Standards Officer reported on a griddle pan purchased locally. A complaint had been received as the pan had marked a kitchen worktop. After testing by Trading Standards the pan failed the General Product Safety Regulations. The shop was contacted and a copy of the instructions was obtained. As the instructions

displayed a clear warning Trading Standards were satisfied and had not taken the investigations any further.

Underage Sales

The Officer reported on the progress with underage alcohol sales. Two volunteers were being used instead of one and Trading Standards had been considering not using I.D. cards as many children do not carry them. It was reported that progress was being made and that the cases were ongoing.

Fireworks

The Trading Standards Officer discussed fireworks with Members of the association. It was explained that although Trading Standards do check dangerous fireworks there was not much they could do about shops selling them all year round as long as the shop had purchased a licence. It was also explained that it would be difficult to enforce against those misusing fireworks.

Fire Torches

The Trading Standards Officer reported that a test had been found for the fire torches discussed at the last meeting of the association and investigations were ongoing.

Operation Strongbow

The Trading Standards Officer advised Members that they were in the early stages of identifying a 'no cold calling' zone in Yarm. The area had a mixture of private and sheltered accommodation and complaints had been received from that area about cold callers. Trading Standards were in the process of contacting ward Councillors and residents with a view to setting up a meeting in the community centre. The Trading Standards Officer emphasised that planning was in its early stages and that a consensus from all involved would be needed to take it further.

AGREED that the Secretary would invite the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to Stockton Home Safety Association to talk about 'no cold calling' zones.

Beware the Bogeyman – Feedback

Mari Rose, The Head of Adult Operational Services, provided Members with feedback on the presentation by Brian Steele at the Baptist Tabernacle on the 13th July 2006. The event was well attended and was considered to be stimulating and vibrant. Following the event a meeting had been held with Trading Standards and the officer for Adult Protection and it had been agreed that they needed to raise the profile of the issue. Members agreed that it was important and that more needed to be done in the Stockton area. Members also agreed that it was important to ensure that vulnerable people were being reached to increase awareness.

It was explained that Brian Steele had been provisionally booked for the 7th November 2006 to return and deliver the presentation again. The Head of Adult Operational Services asked Members to consider two sessions that day. The morning session would be an enhanced awareness presentation and the afternoon session would be focused around training and taking the issue forward.

Members also discussed publicising the session. The Head of Adult Operational Services advised that the event would be promoted at the older people's consultation event at the Oakwood Centre in October.

AGREED that:-

- Home Safety would take the lead on the issue.
- There would be two sessions at the presentation planned for the 7th November.

- Trading Standards would produce a poster advertising the presentation for inclusion in the packs for the older people's consultation event at the Oakwood Centre.

Approach to Recruiting more Members

Members discussed an approach to recruiting more Members for the association. It was agreed that a small article about the association including the contact details for the secretary was the best approach.

AGREED that the Secretary would:-

- Arrange for the article to be included in the Stockton News and Tristar News.
- Arrange for the article to be circulated to the Parish Councils.
- Contact Sure Start to enquire about a representative for the association.

Any other Business

The Chair circulated a booklet to Members produced by the Home Office entitled 'Keep Safe - A Guide to Personal Safety'. Members commented on how useful the guide was for inside and outside the home.

AGREED that the Secretary would obtain copies of the booklet for Members of the Association.