

Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 16th January, 2007.

Present: Cllr Mrs P A Cains (Chair), Cllr K Dixon, Cllr J M Roberts, Cllr B Woodhead; Mr F Russell (Trading Standards); Mrs L Provett (Sure Start); Mr P Dix (Cleveland Fire Brigade); Mr K Jarvis, Mr J Mennell (Public)

Officers: Miss S Johnson (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons present

Apologies: Mr C Snowdon (DNS); Mr D Turton (Cleveland Fire Brigade); Inspector M Thornton, Sergeant M Shallow (Cleveland Police); Mr D Sanders (Crime Reduction Team)

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2006

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2006 be agreed as a correct record.

2 Matters arising

Stockton Home Safety Association Budget

The Chair advised the Association that she had contacted the Finance Manager and it had been agreed that any savings on the 2006/2007 budget would be ring fenced and carried over to 2007/2008.

Stockton Disability Advisory Group

The Secretary showed Members the Stockton Disability Advisory Group draft newsletter recently produced by Stockton Council's Diversity Team. The newsletter included an article on Stockton Home Safety Association and invited members of Stockton Disability Advisory Group along to the Association's next meeting on 27th February 2007. Members of the Association expressed their thanks towards the Diversity Officer for the article on Stockton Home Safety Association.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

3 No Cold Calling zones

The Trading Standards Officer showed Members the finished signs, which would be placed on lamp posts, warning people that the area was a 'no cold calling' zone. The officer advised that the frames for the signs had been donated by the animal welfare centre. It was explained that Trading Standards were waiting for the window stickers to be printed and then they would be able to start putting the signs up. The Officer advised that they were hoping to have the first 'no cold calling' zone up and running in Yarm by the end of February.

The officer discussed the publicity of the 'no cold calling' zones with Members of the Association. The officer advised that Trading Standards would produce a press release and take their own photographs at the opening of the 'no cold calling' zone in Yarm. Members also agreed that Stockton Home Safety

Association should be publicised at the opening.

It was discussed that other residents may want a 'no cold calling' zone in their area once the two pilot schemes had been publicised and may approach their local councillor for information. The Trading Standards Officer agreed to provide all elected Members with the necessary information regarding 'no cold calling' zones and advise them of the opening of the first pilot scheme in Yarm.

Members of the Association asked the Trading Standards Officer when the department planned to evaluate how effective the two pilot schemes had been once up and running. The officer advised that they would wait between six months to one year before evaluating the 'no cold calling' zones.

CONCLUDED that the Trading Standards Officer would provide all elected Council Members with the necessary information relating to no cold calling zones.

4 Report of Trading Standards Officer

Witch's Hat

The Trading Standards Officer advised that they had withdrawn and recalled the witch's hat since the Association's last meeting on 12th December 2006 and the issue had now been resolved. The officer advised Members that Trading Standards now had the power to withdraw and recall items due to upgraded Safety Product Regulations.

Underage Sales

The officer advised that the next lot of test purchases would be carried out in February half term. The department had enough volunteers to carry out the test purchases.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

5 Report of Fire Officer

The Fire Officer advised Members of the Association that there had been no fires in the home caused by Christmas decorations in the Stockton Borough. The Association was pleased with this news.

The officer reported on the numbers of accidental dwelling fires in the Stockton Borough over the past five years. The number of accidental dwelling fires in 2002/03 was 143, 2003/04 - 147, 2004/05 - 129, 2005/06 - 89 and so far in 2006/07 it was 65. The officer commented that they had started doing home fire safety checks in 2003. Members were also provided with figures for deliberate fires. The officer reported that in 2003 the number of deliberately started fires was 63 and that this had reduced to 30 in 2006.

Members commented on how pleasing it was that numbers were reducing and asked the Fire Officer to pass on the Association's congratulations to the team for their hard work. Members of the Association commented on the awareness campaigns of the Fire Brigade such as the discarded cigarettes campaign.

Members agreed that such campaigns were an excellent way of raising awareness of fire prevention.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.