

Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 10th July, 2007.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains(Chairman), Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Julia Roberts

Officers: S Johnson, M Jones (LD)

Also in attendance: K Harrison (Cleveland Fire Brigade), T Redvern (RSVP), A Moriarty (SDAG)

Apologies: F Russell (Trading Standards), D Turton (Cleveland Fire Brigade), C Snowdon (Environmental Health), M Thornton (Cleveland Police), D Sanders (Cleveland Police), M Shallow (Cleveland Police), L Provelt (Sure Start), J Mennell (Public), K Jarvis (Public), A Mitchinson (SDAG), M Wetherall (SDAG)

SHS Appointment of Vice Chairman 2007/8

13/07

RESOLVED that Laura Provelt (Sure Start) be appointed Vice-Chair of the Stockton Home Safety Association for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

SHS Minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2007

14/07

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

SHS matters arising

15/07

It was noted that Mr A Mitchinson (SDAG) had resigned from the Association and had wished the members well for the future. The Chair advised the Association that she would send a letter thanking Mr A Mitchinson for his involvement.

Members discussed the venue of the Stockton Home Safety Association meetings and issues relating to access. Members agreed that Stockton Central Library would be a more suitable venue. It was agreed that the secretary would look into changing the venue of future meetings.

It was noted that Trading Standards had not forwarded the information on No Cold Calling Zones to elected members, and the secretary stated she would look into this.

CONCLUDED that the secretary look into changing the venue of the future meetings, and request Trading Standards forward information on No Cold Calling Zones to all Council members.

SHS Doorstoppers

16/07

Trevor Redfern updated the members on the progress of Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme (RSVP). RSVP were in the process of submitting a final bid to the National Lottery for funding, and were looking at applying for additional funding. Mr Redfern advised members that he had hoped to be running the RSVP scheme in Stockton, if successful with the lottery bid, and

envisaged working in the Stockton area for 14 hours per week. It was hoped that the launch would take place at the Older People's Are You Being Served? event in October.

Trevor Redfern noted that the draft agreement to enable RSVP to bid for funding in the Association's name had been forwarded to the secretary. The secretary informed that this was with the Stockton Borough Council legal department.

Trevor Redfern discussed how successful the scheme had been in the Middlesbrough area, where they had reached approximately 1,500 households in the past 12 months. The Officer reported that there had been a 30% drop in door stop crimes in Middlesbrough.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**SHS
17/07** **No Cold Calling Zones**

It was noted that the review of the two pilot schemes would take place in October.

A member queried how enforceable the scheme was and was informed that although it was not enforceable by law, it did give the opportunity for Trading Standards and the Police Authority to contact those who repeatedly entered the Zone and request that they stop cold calling. It was noted that the schemes also empower residents to refuse access. It was noted that cold calling in No Cold Calling Zones could be claimed as being harassment.

The Chair noted that in Cambridge the majority of homes were within a No Cold Calling Zone.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**SHS
18/07** **Evaluation of Falls Awareness Day**

Members discussed the Falls Awareness Day which took place on 27th June 2007 on Stockton market. The PCT were in attendance highlighting both fall prevention and healthy eating, and Help the Aged attended. Shopmobility were also in attendance, and provided the Association with a poster to put on the trailer. The event started at approximately 10.00am, and due to heavy rain ended at approximately 12.30pm. Lots of leaflets were handed out. It was noted that the only cost incurred to organise the event was the hire of the trailer, which cost the Association £120 to hire.

The members discussed whether it would be worth organising another Falls Awareness Day event in June 2008, and the possibility of organising a school poster competition to coincide with the day and gain more publicity. It was agreed that the organisation of the event should be an agenda item for the January 2008 meeting.

CONCLUDED that Falls Awareness Day would be included as an item on the agenda for January 2008.

SHS **Report of Secretary**

19/07

The secretary reported that an invitation had been received to attend a consultation event on Stockton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2021, which was taking place on Friday 20th July 2007, 9.30am - 2.30pm at the Destiny Centre, Norton Road. The event was aimed at voluntary and community sector groups to give them the opportunity to influence the document. The secretary was asked to forward the invitation to those members not in attendance.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

SHS **Report of Trading Standards Officer**

20/07

The Trading Standards Officer was not in attendance.

A member queried the progress on the proposed visit to the Trading Standards Testing Centre in Middlesbrough, and the secretary stated she would look into this.

The members discussed the 'Beware of the Bogeyman' video, noting their wish to view this video. RSVP stated that they had a copy of the video and would be happy to bring it to a meeting in a venue with video facilities.

RESOLVED that RSVP would bring the 'Beware the Bogeyman' video to a meeting.

SHS **Report of Fire Officer**

21/07

The Fire Officer reported that the Stockton District Accidental Dwelling Fires were up by one to 26 in the comparative period 2007/8 upto 10th July. He also reported on the number of Home Fire Safety Checks carried out up to 9th July 2007. The Fire Officer noted that they had been carrying out Home Safety Fire Checks for approximately three years. He stated that the total number of checks carried out was 24540, and these were broken down into wards as follows:

Billingham Central - 1965
Billingham East - 2538
Billingham North - 1514
Billingham South - 2076
Billingham West - 533
Bishopgarth & Elm Tree - 574
Eaglescliffe - 479
Fairfield - 577
Grangefield - 419
Hardwick - 613
Hartburn - 500
Ingleby Barwick East - 411
Ingleby Barwick West - 255
Mandale & Victoria - 2386
Newtown - 1182
Northern Parishes - 124

Norton North - 1043
Norton South - 949
Norton West - 671
Parkfield & Oxbridge - 1191
Roseworth - 777
Stainsby Hill - 946
Stockton Town Centre - 1311
Village - 950
Western Parishes - 206
Yarm - 350

The Fire Checks were discussed and it was noted that there were three strands to the check: Prevention, protection, and escape.

The many different causes of fires within the homes were discussed, including the use of candles, plug in air freshners and overloaded cube plug adapters. The Fire Brigade's advice to have a telephone in the bedroom in case of emergency was noted.

The Chair raised the donation the Association were making to Stockton Fire Brigade to replace chip pans with deep fat fryers. The presentation of the cheque had been arranged to take place on Friday 13th July, 4.00pm, at Stockton Fire Station and the Fire Brigade's publicity officer was liaising with Stockton Borough Council's publicity officer. An open invitation to members of the Association to attend the event was made.

RESOLVED that the presentation of the cheque would take place on 13th July 2007.

**SHS
22/07** **Report of Police Officer**

The Police Officer was not in attendance.

**SHS
23/07** **Any Other Business**

The issue of Carbon Monoxide detectors was raised following a query from a member of the public during the Falls Awareness Day event. It was believed that these could be purchased by from most large DIY retailers for approximately £15. It was queried whether the Fire Brigade offered a service of distributing such detectors for free and the Fire Officer noted that they had only given one detector out due to exceptional circumstances. It was believed that Help the Aged may distribute Carbon Monoxide detectors and the Chair agreed to confirm this with the relevant person.

RESOLVED that the Chair would speak with Help the Aged regarding Carbon Monoxide detectors.