

Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 26th February, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains(Chairman), Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Julia Roberts, I. McHugh (Cleveland Fire Brigade), D. Sanders (Cleveland Police), K. Jarvis, M. Wetherall (SDAG), A. Moriaty (SDAG), L. Provett (Sure Start)

Officers: F. Russell (DNS), M. Jones (LD)

Also in attendance: T. Redfern (RSVP)

Apologies: D. Atkinson (Cleveland Fire Brigade)

SHS 48/07 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed the attendees, and introductions were made.

SHS 49/07 Minutes of the Meeting Held 4th December 2007

Members considered that minutes of the meeting held 5th December 2007.

The Chair informed that she had received leaflets from Stockton Independent Living Centre, which she had circulated to Council members. She hoped that Council members would visit the centre to see what facilities were available and could advise their constituents of what they could access.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be agreed as a true record.

SHS 50/07 Not Sure, Don't Open the Door

Members were presented with the 'Not Sure, Don't Open the Door' film, which portrayed bogus builders and distraction burglaries.

The Trading Standards Officer informed that he was presenting the film to differing groups in an attempt to educate the public about door step crime. It was believed that, although the members had not been victims of door step crime, the film was useful.

CONCLUDED that the film be noted.

SHS 51/07 Gas Shut Off Valves

A member raised an incident where an elderly lady, with no sense of smell, had accidentally knocked her gas oven so that gas was escaping but not ignited. When the problem was identified and resolved, the lady's family bought her a new cooker with an automatic gas cut off device. However the family were informed that as cut off valves were not routine they would have to pay extra for this.

When investigating the issue, the member became concerned that the laws

regarding gas appliances having automatic gas cut off devices were only applicable for multi storey buildings. The Fire Officer noted that when he looked at this issue he discovered that the law also applied to industrial gas appliances, but not domestic appliances. The Chair informed that Telecare provided gas shut off valves to its clients and suggested that a representative was invited to the next meeting to demonstrate their product

CONCLUDED that Telecare be invited to the next meeting to discuss gas shut off valves.

**SHS
52/07** **Arrangements for Falls Day Event in June 2008**

The Chair discussed the possibility of combining the Falls Day event on 25th June 2008, with the Vulnerable Adults day that was being organised, raising awareness of both issues at the same event.

The previous suggestion made of involving schools in the event by holding a poster competition was discussed. It was believed that due to the cancellation of the January meeting, the timescales would not be feasible to circulate and promote the competition in schools. The Police Officer stated that there was a Junior Neighbourhood Watch, consisting of children between the ages of nine and 13, which the Association could approach to take part in a poster competition. He added that the Police would be able to produce the winning poster in house on behalf of the Association, which would reduce costs.

A member suggested that the Association approach the PCT for funding of a sloppy slippers or similar campaign to take to the event. The Fire Officer stated that the Fire Advocates would attend as they did at the 2007 event, to offer home safety checks. He added that it may also be possible to arrange a chip pan exchange on the day. The Sure Start Officer stated that the Health Trainers would be in place in June, and may be able to take part in the event.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The Falls Day event be opened up to include Vulnerable Adults.
2. The Junior Neighbourhood Watch requested to take part in a poster competition.
3. The PCT be invited to attend, and the possibility of a sloppy slipper campaign queried.
3. The Fire Brigade, Health Trainers, and other agencies be invited to take part in the event.

**SHS
53/07** **Doorstoppers**

T. Redfern informed that he would be able to confirm the funding received from the lottery bid at the next meeting of the Association. Trainers were in place to deliver the 'Not Sure, Don't Open the Door' film, and those groups that had seen both the Bogeyman and the new film preferred the new film.

T. Redfern further informed that the project would be underway at the beginning of April 2008, and he was looking for volunteers. He noted that those who do not attend social groups were the most vulnerable and was therefore also seeking referrals for individuals who would benefit from viewing the film. He would take the film into these individuals home to view, when there was a support worker, family member or friend present.

It was queried whether the launch of the project could be highlighted in Stockton News. The secretary agreed to approach Stockton News to ascertain the possibility of this, and forward the copy deadlines to T. Redfern.

CONCLUDED that:

1. Stockton News be approached
2. The information be noted.

**SHS
54/07** **No Cold Calling Zones**

The Trading Standards Officer discussed the barriers that were being faced with the No Cold Calling Zones. There had been a suggestion that the Zones might not be legal as they infringed on travellers human rights to sell door-to-door. However, it had also been argued that if an area had been a target of door step crime, or there was a fear of crime, the introduction of a No Cold Calling Zone was legitimate. Trading Standards were investigating the use of by-laws to introduce No Cold Calling Zones, and if by-laws were used this would mean that the whole Stockton-on-Tees Borough would be a No Cold Calling Zone.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**SHS
55/07** **Report of Secretary**

Members agreed the dates of the Association's meetings for 2008/9

CONCLUDED that the meeting dates be agreed.

**SHS
56/07** **Report of Sure Start Officer**

The Sure Start Officer informed that the Family Centre in Thornaby, which had to be closed in 2006 following a fire, was to be officially reopened on Wednesday 27th February. The open day would focus on Fire Safety, and the Fire Brigade were attending the event.

Sure Start were informed in December that they would receive funding for home safety schemes. The amount to be received had not been confirmed, however it would be used to target the 30% most deprived areas. It was queried whether Sure Start provided a fitting service for the baby gates and fire guards that they gave out in the equipment lending scheme. The Sure Start Officer stated that they were unable to fit the equipment due to insurance issues, however did provide advice on where to situate the equipment. She added that there were no instances she was aware of where a client was unable to find someone to fit the

equipment.

The Sure Start Officer noted a meeting that she attended on a regular basis which discussed children's accidents in the home. She noted that the figures regarding children presenting at Accident & Emergency following accidents had become more difficult to get hold of, and the group were looking into this.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**SHS
57/07** **Report of Trading Standards Officer**

Novelty Witch's Hat

The Trading Standards Officer reported that on the day the novelty witch's hat that had failed trading standards test was going to court, the company agreed to accept a formal caution and payment of costs. Therefore the case was closed.

Toy/Collectors Train

The model train that had caused serious injury to a child had undergone further testing. It was found that when used as stated in the instructions it passed safety tests. The case had been passed onto CPS.

Toy Rattle

The Officer informed that a toy rattle had shattered during testing where it was dropped at a height. The manufacturers had withdrawn the rattle from sale immediately.

Test Purchases

There had been six underage cigarette sales and one underage alcohol sale in shops. There had also been three underage cigarette and alcohol sales in public houses.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**SHS
58/07** **Report of Fire Officer**

The Fire Officer informed that the Fire Safety campaign was launched in Hardwick in January 2008, and the Fire Brigade were working closely with the Police and wardens in this area. Since the launch there had been a sharp fall in number of incidents. Stockton Town Centre and Tilery were also being targeted.

There was an issue with vehicle fires in the Stockton area, with nine incidents of this in the previous month. However this figure had fallen from the same period in 2007. Billingham and Thornaby areas had no incidents of this nature.

The Fire Brigade had met with Tristar Homes and were to work closely on tackling chip pan fires in the Hardwick and Tilery area. Tristar had agreed to fund a chip pan exchange, and the Officer stated he would report back on this at

the next meeting. National Chip Pan week took place between 11th - 14th February 2008, and there was some good exposure during this week.

No Smoking Day was due to take place 12th March 2008. There were 32 fires in the Cleveland Fire Brigade area caused by smoking over the previous 12 months, and 16 of those occurred in the SBC area.

At this point the Chair was taken over by the Vice-Chair, as Cllr Mrs Cains left the meeting.

CONCLUDED that information be noted.

**SHS
59/07** **Report of Police Officer**

The Police Officer noted that there had been 765 domestic burglaries in SBC area in 2007, which was down slightly from 2006. However when this figure was broken down into areas, the figure for 2007 was up from 2006 in some areas. Almost 40% of the domestic burglaries that took place were due to unlocked doors.

The Officer informed that two for one crime had reduced by 40% in 2007, and it was believed that this was due in part to the 'Take me to Bed' car keys campaign.

Test Purchases were still taking place, and Crime Prevention had funded further vouchers for the volunteers who take part in the tests.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**SHS
60/07** **Any Other Business**

There was no other business to report