

Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 8th April, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), D Sanders and R Baker (Cleveland Police), Mrs A Moriarty and Mrs M Weatherall

Officers: Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: T Redfern (Retired & Senior Volunteer Programme)

Apologies: Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Julia Roberts, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Mrs Laura Provett (Sure Start), F Russell (Trading Standards),

SHS Appointment of Chairman

1/08

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Cains be appointed Chair of the Stockton Home Safety Association for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

SHS Appointment of Vice Chairman

2/08

Members were advised that the appointment of Vice Chair could not be made until the next meeting.

CONCLUDED that the appointment of Vice Chair will be on the next agenda.

SHS Chairs Welcome

3/08

The Chair welcomed Mrs Harrison back from Maternity leave. Mrs Harrison was resuming her role as secretary to the Stockton Home Safety Association.

CONCLUDED that the welcome be noted.

SHS Minutes of the meeting held 26th February 2008

4/08

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held 26th February 2008.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the 26th February 2008 be agreed as a true record.

SHS Arrangements for Falls Day Event

5/08

Members discussed the forth-coming Falls Day Event. The Chair showed Members a leaflet that she received and suggested that it could be tailored to the Association's specifications to create posters to put on display at the Event and before.

Members discussed the time scale and programme for the poster competition that would be designed by children involved in the Junior Neighbourhood Watch. Members expressed concern in relation to the suggestion that an artist would tidy up the poster prior to printing but were advised that the artists would not alter the child's picture but would ensure that the required logos would be put in place.

The time scale would be tight as the posters would need to be completed by the spring half term holiday 26th May to ensure that the posters could be judged and printed by the beginning of June to ensure sufficient time to promote the Falls Day Event.

It was suggested that the Chair and the Mayor could judge the posters; therefore the judging would not need to take place during a Stockton Home Safety Association meeting.

Members felt that once the winning poster was printed, an article could go into the Evening Gazette with a photograph of the child holding their winning poster. The article would be a boost for the child but would also promote the Falls Day Event.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The Chair will drop off the leaflet to be produced to Mr R Baker (Cleveland Police) for amendment and printing.
2. Mr R Baker (Cleveland Police) will speak with the children from Junior Neighbourhood Watch and ask them to draw posters relating to Falls Day.
3. The Mayor will be asked to assist the Chair in judging the posters in the week commencing 19th May.
4. The Evening Gazette to be contacted, requesting an article and photograph of the child and winning poster.

**SHS
6/08**

Doorstoppers

Mr Redfern advised Members that the Lottery bid had been successful so Doorstoppers was now able to be launched. The Lottery bid would last for 3 years with support in kind from Stockton sources.

Mr Redfern advised that the meeting that had taken place the day before explaining Doorstoppers to related professionals had been a huge success.

An article would be going into Stockton News in May publicising the Doorstoppers project. Upon obtaining office space in Stockton and volunteers to undertake the work of the project, it was anticipated that the major public launch would take place in June.

Members emphasised the need for a list of service providers who could be contacted by the residents who needed jobs done on their homes without being taken advantage of by unscrupulous people. It was observed that such a list would be difficult to obtain as Councils could not be seen to be showing preference for certain companies. Members felt that Trading Standards could be of assistance by providing a list of six reputable plumbers; six reputable pavers etc. with the understanding that the resident would then obtain 3 quotes and choose the best for them.

It was considered that there had to be a way that Trading Standards could

provide such a list without showing preferential treatment.

It was understood that Help the Aged and/or Age Concern provided a handyman service but it was not clear if the service was still in existence and what they would undertake.

Mr Redfern thanked the Association for their initial support and their financial contribution to the project.

CONCLUDED that:

1. Mr Redfern will provide updates on the Doorstoppers project.
2. Mr Redfern will approach Trading Standards to work out how to obtain and compile a list of reputable service providers that could be passed on to residents to help prevent unscrupulous people taking advantage of residents. Mr Redfern will report back after his discussions with Trading Standards.

**SHS
7/08**

No Cold Calling Zones

Mr Sanders of Cleveland Police advised members that there had been question over the legality of the No Cold Calling Zones but the standing of Cleveland Police was that such a scheme would be of great benefit to the area so they would go ahead with No Cold Calling Zones and wait to see if any legal challenges materialised.

The problems facing the Police and Trading Standards was that it had not been worked out who would police the project as it appeared that Trading Standards did not have enough staff to police the project. There were also too many areas from which to choose.

Mr Sanders advised that he would have more information at the next meeting as he was attending a Doorstoppers meeting the following day.

CONCLUDED that Mr Sanders would provide Members with further information at the next meeting on 10th June 2008.

**SHS
8/08**

Report of Police Officer

Members were advised that Cleveland Police have launched a 'Spring Garden Crime' scheme. The initiative would target allotments to try and prevent the theft of tools, plants etc.

Signs and security tool marking would be provided at no cost to the users. There would also be a 'ring watch' scheme which would enable people to phone and report concerns relating to allotment security.

The slogan would be 'Garden Crime a Growing Concern' and would be launched once the posters and signs were ready to go.

CONCLUDED that Members noted and approved of the scheme.

SHS

Any Other Business

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Members discussed the "Message in a bottle". It was a little tin which the individual would put a copy of their current prescriptions into and then store in the fridge. The individual would put one of the stickers provided on the fridge and another in a strategic place. If the individual collapsed then the Paramedics who were trained to identify the sticker and find the tin, could find the person's medication and assist the individual promptly.

Individuals were advised to put the tin in the fridge as it would be the last thing to burn in the event of a fire.

Members were advised that the tins only cost £1.00 and a local business man had told the Police that he wanted to contribute to such a scheme as long as he was not identified.

Members observed that such an item would be a good thing to include in a goody bag and given to individuals at the 'Are You Being Served Well' Event in October.

Mr Sanders advised that he would work out the costs and would then approach Peter Smith (Strategic Commissioner for Adults Strategy) and the anonymous business man regarding funding.

SITE VISIT TO TRADING STANDARDS

The Chair requested that the Association undertake a site visit to the Head Quarters of Trading Standards as it was felt that it would be of benefit to the Members to see the work they undertook on behalf of Stockton-on-Tees.

CONCLUDED that:

1. Mr Sanders will work out costs for the message in a bottle tins. He will then speak to Peter Smith and the anonymous donor and then report back to Members.
2. The Secretary will arrange with Mr Russell (Trading Standards) and the Chair on an appropriate date for members to undertake a site visit to Trading Standards. Members will be informed once the date has been arranged.