

Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 10th June, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Julia Roberts, F Russell (Trading Standards), Mrs A Moriaty (SDAG)

Officers: Mrs L Provett (CESC), Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: T Redfern (RSVP)

Apologies: Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Steve Walmsley, C Snowdon (DNS), D Atkinson (Cleveland Fire Brigade), I McHugh (Cleveland Fire Brigade), D Sanders (Cleveland Police), R Baker (Cleveland Police - Neighbourhood Watch) and Mrs M Wetherall (SDAG)

SHS 10/08 Appointment of Vice Chair

RESOLVED that Mrs Laura Provett (Sure Start) be appointed Vice Chair of the Stockton Home Safety Association.

SHS 11/08 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2008

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held 8th April 2008.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the 8th April 2008 be agreed as a true record.

SHS 12/08 Arrangements for Falls Day Event

Members were updated on the preparations for the Fall Awareness Day Event.

Members were shown a flyer advertising an event for National Falls Awareness Day, the day before the Association's event. It appeared that some of the organisations invited to stand with Stockton Home Safety Association on a stall on 25th June to coincide with market day, had joined with PCT at the event the day before.

Members asked the Secretary to enquire who would be attending the Association's stall.

The Secretary was asked to order relevant leaflets from ROSPA with advice for preventing falls.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The Secretary will contact organisations who were invited to join the Association on 25th June 2008 to enquire if they were still standing with the Association.
2. The Secretary to contact ROSPA to obtain leaflets for Falls Awareness Day event.

SHS 13/08 Gas Shut off Valves

The item was not discussed as the Officer was not able to attend the meeting.

CONCLUDED that the item will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

SHS
14/08 **Doorstoppers**

Further to Members' requests, the Trading Standards Officer reported that upon investigation a list could not be produced containing details of tradesmen.

Members discussed the possibility of publishing a list of all the Trade Associations; however Stockton Central Library already held lists of the Trade Associations, which individuals could easily access by contacting Beverly Dix (Consumer Advisor).

Mr Redfern updated Members on the progress of the Doorstoppers scheme and his role in the scheme. Mr Redfern had obtained an office in Stockton and would shortly begin recruiting of six volunteers to assist in the work.

On attending a Strongbow meeting with Cleveland Police, Mr Redfern was happy to report that the Stockton area was the only area where doorstep crime has reduced.

Mr Redfern requested a master copy of the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council logo; which would be used to incorporate the logo onto the leaflets he was producing. The Secretary advised that the Graphics Department did not usually permit other departments or outside organisations to obtain and duplicate the logo; however the Secretary would investigate the possibility.

HANDYVAN SCHEME

Members were advised that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council would put the handyman scheme out to tender in November 2008 at which point the service provider could change from Help the Aged.

Members were provided with a leaflet which had been produced by Help the Aged, advertising the HandyVan service. The leaflet did not provide much information and proved to be misleading due to the fact that the service did not supply aids and adaptations.

The leaflet did not indicate that people could only use the service if they met all three of the criteria. Members understood that there was no charge to the individual for the service upon fulfilling the requirements of the criteria but the leaflet made no mention of cost.

Members were informed that one local man undertook the work for HandyVan in the Stockton area.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.

2. The Secretary will contact Jeff Costello to make enquires about obtaining a master copy of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council logo and will report the

findings back to the Stockton Home Safety Association.

**SHS
15/08** **No Cold Calling Zones**

Members were advised that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council had a different interpretation of the guidelines on 'no cold calling zones' to that of the Office of Fair Trading. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council understood that where there was proof of need in a particular area, it was acceptable to install 'no cold calling zones'. However, blanket zones over the whole of the Borough were not acceptable.

Setting up 'no cold calling zones' were not an issue, however there were financial considerations in maintaining the zones.

Councillors had been concerned that they would not be permitted to go door to door when canvassing residents in their Wards, however Members were advised that the guidelines did not exclude Councillors from 'no cold calling zones'.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

**SHS
16/08** **Faulty Thermostat Guidance**

Members were provided with guidance regarding faulty thermostat and hot water systems.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**SHS
17/08** **Message in a bottle**

Dave Sanders (Cleveland Police) was not able to attend the meeting but sent a message advising that he had discovered that the lead agency for 'Message in a bottle' was the Lions organisation.

Mr Sanders was in touch with them and would feedback his findings at the next meeting.

CONCLUDED that Mr Dave Sanders will report his finds from the Lions Organisation to the next Stockton Home Safety Association meeting.

**SHS
18/08** **Report of Secretary**

'ARE YOU BEING SERVED' EVENT

Members were advised that sponsorship for the older people's 'Are you being Served' event was being sought.

The event would cost £6000 and any offers of sponsorship would be gratefully accepted.

Further to discussion between the Chair and Secretary, Members were advised that any contribution made by Stockton Home Safety Association would not do much to publicise the existence of the Association and its purpose and that due

to the limited budget the Association would not be able to provide sufficient funds to make any significant impact.

Member's opinion was therefore sought on Stockton Home Safety Association offering to run a stall at the event in place of limited financial contribution. The Chair felt that it would be a more effective use of the small budget that the Association held and it would be a better way of serving and informing the attendees of the event.

POSTERS FOR FALLS AWARENESS DAY

Members were advised that there would not be a poster to advertise the Falls Awareness Day due to the fact that upon judging the posters, the Chair and Deputy Mayor did not find a poster that would suitably have advertised the event.

The Chair had requested that the child, whose poster most closely met the remit, be sent a voucher as a way of thanks. By the time of the meeting the Secretary had not been able to obtain the name of the child from the Officer responsible for Junior Neighbourhood Watch. However the Secretary had thanked the Junior Neighbourhood Watch on behalf of the Home Safety Association.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The Secretary obtain the name of the child from Junior Neighbourhood Watch who most closely met the remit for the Falls Awareness poster and then send a £10 voucher to the child.
2. The report be noted.

SHS 19/08 **Report of Sure Start Officer**

Members were advised that Sure Start were looking at extending the home loan scheme for such items as stair gates from the 30% disadvantaged in the borough to the whole of the Borough.

The home loan scheme was difficult to 'police' once the items were given to individuals so the scheme would be run on trust. When equipment could not be provided, advice would still be readily available.

Many parents were requesting pressure mounted gates; however these gates were not as safe as fixed gates as children were known to fall against pressure mounted gates and they would collapse.

The Sure Start Officer advised that balustrades in older homes were wide enough for children to put their heads through which was not safe. The balustrades in new houses and in particular, new Tristar houses were safe but old Tristar houses required safety measure to ensure children were not injured as a result of the balustrades.

A new Sure Start building had recently been opened in Ingleby Barwick. The area was not a disadvantaged area but it was still considered a place of need.

Sure Start was looking into partnership working for the 70% advantaged areas in the Borough.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

**SHS
20/08** **Report of Police Officer**

The Police Officer was not in attendance.

**SHS
21/08** **Report of Fire Officer**

The Fire Officer was not in attendance.

**SHS
22/08** **Report of Trading Standards Officer**

Members were informed that Trading Standards were using a new method of testing underage sales.

Mr Russell (Trading Standards Officer) showed Members photographs of a man who had received serious facial injury as a result of an angle grinder he had purchased.

The man had made a complaint as he felt that the grinder was faulty, however Trading Standards were not able to test the machine as the cost of the test was £1000. The Officer advised that the standard recognised that angle grinders provided a kick back therefore it raised speculation that human error could have also played a role in the accident.

The planned visit to Trading Standards Head Quarters had to be postponed as so few Members were able to attend.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. Mr Russell would report back to Members once Trading Standards had investigated the possibility of the use of hidden surveillance cameras for underage sale tests.
3. Members will be informed of the new date for the site visit to Trading Standards Head Quarters at the next meeting.