

Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 14th October, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), D Atkinson (Cleveland Fire Brigade), D Sanders (Cleveland Police), T Redfern (RSVP), K Jarvis (Public)

Officers: Mrs L Provett (Children Centre), F Russell (Trading Standards) and Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons were present

Apologies: Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Steve Walmsley

SHS 32/08 Doorstoppers

Members were advised that things were progressing well; nine volunteers had been trained and 169 residents had heard the presentation.

Volunteers would give talks to all appropriate neighbourhood watch groups and it was hoped that the information would be passed on by word of mouth.

Lorraine Goude - Commissioning Officer responsible for home carers was also working with Mr Redfern. Awareness training was being arranged for all employees who entered into older/vulnerable people's homes following which, someone from the Doorstopper team would give a presentation on Doorstoppers.

Mr Redfern would also be running a 'Doorstoppers' stall at the 'Are You Being Served...Well' Event to further inform people regarding Doorstoppers.

The cheque for the second instalment of the funding given from the Association to Doorstoppers was in the process of being issued.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

SHS 33/08 No Cold Calling Zones

Members were advised that there had been "creative" differences between Crime Reduction, Trading Standards, Neighbourhood Watch and Tristar, which centred around funding obtained by Tristar for the production of signs and door stickers for their own no cold calling zones. Tristar were advised that the Police could not provide support for Tristar's own No Cold Calling Zones.

The matter had since been resolved with Tristar offering their obtained funding to the collective, official 'No Cold Calling Zone' scheme.

Members queried the effectiveness of a 'No Cold Calling Zone' which had several exits, however Members were advised that cold callers test areas that run the scheme and thanks to the vast improvement in Neighbourhood Watch in Stockton even areas with several exits have proved effective at deterring cold callers.

Officers advised that the strategy for 'No Cold Calling Zones' had changed;

Members therefore requested a report at the next meeting detailing the changes.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Trading Standards Officer will invite Lorraine Wilford to attend the next meeting to give a presentation on the strategy changes to the 'No Cold Calling Zones' scheme.

**SHS
34/08** **Report of Secretary**

Members discussed the fact that the Association had previously requested to have a stall at the 'Are You Being Served...Well' Event, however the Association had limited leaflets to distribute and only one member could personally man the stall due to the fact that other Members were representing their own organisation on other stalls and one was at a Conference.

Members discussed the invitation received from the Falls co-ordinator for Stockton's PCT for Stockton Home Safety Association to join them on the Fall Awareness Day Event in 2009.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The Secretary will speak with Councillor Mrs Cherrett to enquire if she will be happy to man the stall at the 'Are You Being Served...Well' Event on her own.
2. The Chair and Secretary will meet the Falls Co-ordinator to discuss the Falls Day 2009.

**SHS
35/08** **Report of Sure Start Officer**

The Sure Start Officer advised that the Service would no longer be known as 'Sure Start' and would now be known as 'Children's Centre's.

The Children's Centre Officer advised that the Government had allocated £18 million to be used nationally for home safety needs. In December a host would be decided upon who would receive the funding and was hoped that a distributor would be used to disseminate the funding. The manner of the distribution of the funding was very unusual.

It was hoped that things would be clearer once the host had been appointed. The Children's Centre Officer would report back to the Association upon the appointment of the funding host.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Children's Centre Officer will report back when further information has been received upon appointment of the funding host.

**SHS
36/08**

Report of Police Officer

The Police Officer advised that scrap metal thefts were still on going.

Satellite Navigation systems were still being left in car windows which encouraged break-in's.

The Police would be running a 'Not In My Neighbourhood' campaign with the Fire Service for the week commencing 26th October. The Police would be out patrolling to break up groups who planned on starting fires. The Fire Service would also make their presence known and put out fires.

A Christmas campaign would begin shortly encouraging people not to leave presents on the back seat of cars and not to leave presents under the Christmas tree especially with lights on and curtains as it encourages walk in or break in burglaries.

Members discussed an article that had been published in the Evening Gazette advising people not to lock their sheds at allotments; however the Police Officer stated that this was not the advice given by the Police.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

**SHS
37/08**

Report of Fire Officer

Members were advised that Cleveland Fire Authority would be represented at the 'Are You Being Served...Well' Event.

The Fire Authority would be running an 'In Safe Hands' bonfire campaign which would be launched at the Riverside Stadium as a press release.

It was observed that the 5th November was not usually the Fire Authorities busiest night; it was usually the week beginning the 26th October when the clocks changed. In an attempt to limit the number of fires, all community bonfires had been banned on Guy Fawkes Night and the Fire Service had joined with the Police to run a campaign to combat sporadic fires in the week of greater incidents.

The Chair observed that the Community Skip would be in their ward on 5th November and requested that the skip be removed early that day to avoid the contents being set alight. The Chair was advised that the Arson Task force would deal with the request.

The Fire Officer reported that the number of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) carried out by Fire-fighters during September were as follows:

- Stockton 206
- Billingham 140
- Thornaby 162

The Fire Authority had teamed up with Help the Aged, Age Concern and other agencies to carry out a 'Winter Warmer' campaign which would show older people how to stay warmer in winter whilst remaining safe. The campaign would provide wind up torches and hot water bottles.

The Government were looking at long term solutions to the problem but the Fire Authority were looking at short term solution that could help the individuals immediately.

Members were advised that the Cadet Scheme had begun and was a great opportunity for youths to gain GCSE's who would not usually have the chance.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Fire Officer will contact the Arson Task Force and request the removal of the community skip in Norton West Ward before the evening on 5th November to avoid the possibility of the content being set alight.

**SHS
38/08**

Report of Trading Standards Officer

The Trading Standards Officer advised that there had already been an illegal sale of fireworks. Trading Standards would be undertaking an underage sale of fireworks and banners test shortly. The Officer was happy to report that the number of shops selling fireworks had shrunk and become more stringent in their sale of fireworks.

Further to a previous item discussed by the Association, the Trading Standards Officer advised that the manufacturer of the bike which injured a child had interpreted the guidance differently to Trading Standards. Trading Standards would continue investigating the matter.

Trading Standards were testing Halloween items.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.