

Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 5th August, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Julia Cherrett, I McHugh (Cleveland Fire Brigade), D Sanders (Cleveland Police), S Taylor (Care Call), K Jarvis (Public)

Officers: Mrs L Provett (Vice Chairman (Sure Start), F Russell (DNS) and Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: T Redfern (RSVP)

Apologies: Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Steve Walmsley, D Atkinson (Cleveland Fire Brigade), R Baker (Cleveland Police-Neighbourhood Watch), J Mennell (Public), Mrs M Weatherall (SDAG) and Mrs A Moriaty (SDAG)

SHS 23/08 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2008

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2008.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2008 be agreed as a true record.

SHS 24/08 Gas Shut Off Valves

Mr Taylor gave a presentation on Gas shut off valves and other items of equipment provided by Telecare. The equipment provided, assisted in keeping older and vulnerable people safe in their own homes.

Installed gas shut off valves automatically activated if the gas rings were turned on but not ignited. Fourteen shut off valves had been installed with thirteen activations since November 2006. One lady in her 90's had caused the device to activate 5 times; without the device she would not have been able to live independently for the last 16 months.

Upon activation, a heating and ventilation team visited the property to check and reset the valve. If the gas could not be reset due to a problem, the officers carried heaters with them which were left with the individual until the problem was resolved.

Low heat detectors were also used to ensure that heating in properties did not drop to an unsafe level, if this occurred an alarm would go to the centre and officers would go and attend to the individual.

Telecare supplied fall detectors which clipped onto the persons clothing, if they fell it would automatically send an alert to the care call centre who would attend to the person. Bed sensors were also provided which alerted the centre if the individual was out of bed longer than usual in the middle of the night.

Each piece of equipment ran on batteries, the life of which was monitored, checked and changed by the 'care call' centre.

The cost for the 'care call' service was £7.70 per week, however many people received assistance with the cost through social services fairer assessment scheme.

The service had proved very successful with over 320 individuals having telecare installed.

Members thanked Mr Taylor for the presentation and were very pleased that such a service existed.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. Mr Taylor would provide Trading Standards with information packs on the equipment and service provided.

**SHS
25/08**

Doorstoppers

Members were provided with an update on the 'Doorstoppers' programme.

A lecture on Doorstoppers would shortly be given by Mr Russell to the R.S.V.P. volunteers and some elected Members. Doorstoppers were eager to give talks to interested individuals or vulnerable adult groups.

A training session would also be undertaken on 19th August after which the programme would be launched in September if the CRB checks were back in time.

Doorstoppers would be holding a stall at the 'Are you being served' event in October.

Members were advised that funding issues had held the programme up, however things were starting to progress.

Stockton Home Safety Association had previously agreed to contribute funds in two parts to the programme. The second instalment would be given if sufficient funding was still lacking. Mr Redfern informed Members that Doorstoppers needed the remaining funds. Members agreed that the second instalment would be paid to Doorstoppers.

Stockton Home Safety Association was thanked for their contribution.

The Chair wished to thank Lorraine Wilford who had done a great deal of work with Doorstoppers behind the scenes.

CONCLUDED that the Secretary will organise payment of the second instalment to Doorstopper as contribution to the programme from Stockton Home Safety Association as directed by the members.

**SHS
26/08**

No Cold Calling Zones

Members were informed that there had been lots of inquiries and requests for No Cold Calling Zones.

The Chair requested that her street be considered for the scheme due to the

number of older residents in the 91 properties and that it was a 'no through' road.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Chairs request for the scheme on her road would be considered by Trading Standards.

**SHS
27/08** **Report of Secretary**

The Secretary had nothing to report.

**SHS
28/08** **Report of Sure Start Officer**

The Sure Start Officer advised that she was moving offices from Thornaby to Billingham and as part of her job would be responsible for The Clarence's.

Members were advised that Sure Start were expecting an announcement from the Government in October that more funding would be provided for the 'Home Loan' scheme, which loaned out items such as stair gates.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

**SHS
29/08** **Report of Police Officer**

The Police Officer informed Members that while the number of burglaries were down; scrap metal thefts were a problem.

Whilst the security marking method called 'smart water' was not considered ideal in other forms of theft deterrent due to the fact that the marking was not visible; it was considered very useful to check scrap metal as the metal would become florescent under ultra violet lights. Each batch of smart water has its own chemical DNA which would help in identifying the area from which the lead came.

Scrap metal yards were being encouraged to install ultra violet lights in a bid to identify and reduce lead thefts.

The large scrap metal dealer in the area had advised that they would no longer buy scrap from small providers.

Members expressed unhappiness at the frequency of collectors and that all 'rag and bone men' and similar collectors of scrap should have identification similar to Taxi drivers, however they were advised that it could not be enforced.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Members were informed that upon investigation it had been discovered that the Lion's organisation purchased pallets of 3150 containers at a cost of £550.

The Lion organisation had not advised how much they charged individuals for each bottle, How Stockton Home Safety could order pallets direct from the provider, How much it would cost Home Safety Association and the cost of the graphics printing on the bottles. Once the information was received, the Police Officer would report back to Members.

It was acknowledged that storage of the pallets, which consisted of 15 boxes, would be an issue along with distribution of the bottles.

It was suggested that the Association could enter into a partnership with a local pharmacy. The pharmacy could distribute the bottles and could include their logo on the bottle and could share the cost of the bottles though the Association could afford to purchase a pallet.

The Trading Standards Officer advised that he would investigate the feasibility of partnering with local pharmacies and would report back to Members at the next meeting.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Trading Standards Officer will investigate the feasibility of partnering with local pharmacies and would report back to Members at the next meeting.

**SHS
30/08**

Report of Fire Officer

The Fire Officer reported that as a district Stockton was down on every fire indicator. In previous years the start of the summer holidays had seen an increase, however this year the number of fires were down.

The Fire Officer had attended nine fire prevention related activities and in September he would attend another eight.

Members were advised that Stockton Fire Station had carried out 226 home fire safety visits to households in June within the Stockton area.

Members were advised that the slips, trips and falls pilot scheme would be reviewed in December.

The Fire Officer advised that a 'Football not Fire Tournament' was taking place to involve and educate youth. A three day fire fighters course was to be launched.

In September a fire cadet scheme would be launched; Pupils from six secondary schools who were struggling in school would take part and in doing so would earn a vocational certificate.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

**SHS
31/08**

Report of Trading Standards Officer

The Trading Standards Officer informed Members that he had inspected a Members of Stockton Home Safety Association's microwaves at their home as part of the service provided by Trading Standards to members of the public.

Members were informed that there had been no underage cigarette sales. A Government directed survey of cigarette kiosks had been undertaken in the Borough the results of which could lead to the removal of visible cigarette displays.

Members were advised that a child had fallen off a racing bike and hurt himself on the spokes. Trading Standards investigated the matter and as the standard stated that a racing bike was to have wheel guards, however upon investigation they discovered that there were no racing bikes on the market which had guards. Trading Standards would address the matter further.

Members discussed 'lock bumping' which was reported to be a method that people could access properties with double glazed doors by using a key like item called 'Euro Lock', however the Trading Standards Officer advised that 'Euro Locks' were not proved to work and were no more effective than a pair of pliers.

The Trading Standards Officer advised that they would look into the distributors of the DVD that was used as a scare tactic to convince people to change their locks to prevent 'lock bumping' due to the unfounded nature of the claims.

Members discussed the site visit to Trading Standards Head Quarters.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The Trading Standards Officer will further investigate the lack of guards on racing bikes.
 2. The Trading Standards Officer will investigate the DVD that advises people to change their locks to prevent access by 'lock bumping' due to scare mongering and false information.
1. The Trading Standards Officer will investigate the DVD distributed