

# Stockton Home Safety Association

A meeting of Stockton Home Safety Association was held on Tuesday, 6th October, 2009.

**Present:** Mrs Laura Provett (In the Chair), Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Trevor Redfern (RSVP), Lorraine Wilford (Trading Standards), David Atkinson (Cleveland Fire Brigade)

**Officers:** Allison Blackburn (CESC); Mrs Tanya Harrison (LD)

**Also in attendance:** No other person's were present.

**Apologies:** Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Miss Tina Large, Mrs Moriaty, Miss Kirsty Wannop (Secretary)

## **SHS 48/09**      **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Julia Cherrett declared a personal non prejudicial interest in relation to the Financial Update item due to being a Member of the Fire Authority.

Councillor Mrs Julia Cherrett declared a personal non prejudicial interest in relation to the Report of the Home Safety Resource Worker due to being a Member of Tristar Homes Board.

## **SHS 49/09**      **Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd June 2009**

Deferred to the next meeting due to the absence of the Chair.

## **SHS 50/09**      **Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th September 2009**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2009.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2009 be agreed and sent to Council for consideration.

## **SHS 51/09**      **Doorstoppers**

Members were informed that Doorstoppers had undertaken 1194 talks to residents groups and individuals.

Members were advised that RSVP were focusing on vulnerable people under the care of Social Services.

Mr Redfern (RSVP) observed that the Fire Brigade Older People Representatives were a good method of contact.

The audio Doorstoppers CD was given to one of the visually impaired members of the Association with a request that she listened to the CD and reported back on the CD at the next meeting.

Mr Redfern reported that he would be manning an (RSVP) stall at the 'Are You Being Served Well' event.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

**SHS**     **No Cold Calling Zones**

**52/09**

Members were advised that applications for 'No Cold Calling Zones' were coming in slowly and steadily of which officers had kept up to date.

Officers advised that a press release would be issued to encourage further applications.

Members queried the follow up once applications had been submitted and were advised that once officers received an application they would not report back that it had been received, however enquiries on the applications progression could be made.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

**SHS**     **Financial Update**

**53/09**

Members were provided with information on the financial update.

Members queried if any remaining budget could be carried over into the next financial year. The Trading Standards Officer would look investigate and report back to the Association.

Members observed that if the remaining budget could not be carried over it could be used to purchase deep fat fryers or door chains which would assist the Fire Service or the Police to provide equipment to a greater number of people.

Members expressed the importance of not wasting the budget.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Trading Standard Officer will investigate whether any remaining budget could be carried over into the next financial year and will report her findings at the next meeting.

**SHS**     **Report of Secretary**

**54/09**

Member's were advised that due to the absence of the Chair and secretary the Association were not able to discuss the Chinese Lanterns as had been planned due to lack of information, however it would be addressed by the secretary at the next meeting.

The Chair submitted a request via email that the Association agreed on a raffle prize and a budget for the prize which would be given at the 'Are You Being Served Well' Event.

Members agreed on a budget of £25 and agreed that the main prize from the Association would be related to Home Safety. The prize would be a first aid kit for the home, any remaining funds would be used to purchase chocolates or

biscuits and be added to the first aid kit.

Members were advised that Stockton Home Safety Association would have a stall at the Are You Being Served Well event as well as RSVP and the Fire Brigade. Trading Standards would not be represented on a stall as they felt there would be duplication with the other groups represented by Stockton Home Safety Association.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. Sky lanterns would be addressed by the secretary at the next meeting.
3. £25 will be spent on the raffle prize. The majority of the funds will be spent on a first aid kit for the home and any remaining funds will be used to purchase chocolates and biscuits. The items will be purchased by the Secretary.

**SHS  
55/09**      **Report of Home Safety Resource Worker**

Members were informed that the Safe at Home Funding had been awarded to the Children's Centre Officers in the form of packs of home safety equipment. The equipment would be stored, provided when needed, replenished and fitted by Tristar.

Members were advised that 319 packs had been allocated to the Stockton Borough and were provided to households upon assessment of need.

Due to the fact that the award of the equipment came from ROSPA the assessments could not deviate from the stipulations of ROSPA, therefore the families needed to be on means tested benefits.

The Officer advised that when an assessment was carried out she would ask if the household had received a fire home safety check from the Fire Brigade. If a home fire safety check had not been carried out or it had been over six months the officer would contact the Fire Brigade and request a visit from the Fire Brigade.

Members discussed the most suitable location for stairgates; the Home Safety Resource Officer advised that generally it was not recommended to put stairgates at the top of stairs.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

**SHS  
56/09**      **Report of Police Officer**

The Police Officer was not present.

**SHS  
57/09**      **Report of Fire Officer**

The Fire Officer reported on the number of Fire Home Safety check which had taken place in September 2009 which were as follows:

- 192 in Stockton
- 84 in Thornaby
- 67 in Billingham

An overall total of 352 smoke alarms had been fitted in September.

Members were advised that 1st October was the start of the International Older People's Campaign and the Fire Service intended to co-ordinate their 2009 'Winter Warmth' Scheme with a launch of the scheme at Hartlepool Fire Station by holding a coffee morning.

The Fire Officer advised the purpose of 'Winter Warmth' was to help as many people as possible both families and the elderly to be safe and warm in their homes through providing equipment and safety advice.

Funding had been obtained through the PCT to employ a Winter Warmth Officer.

It was observed that when Fire Safety Officers carried out home safety checks in the spring or summer months it was not possible to easily identify warmth issues and matters of safety related to methods of remaining warm in households during the winter period.

The Fire Officer advised that a Christmas Campaign was being formulated.

Members requested that information on the 'Winter Warmth' Scheme and the Christmas Campaign be sent to all elected Council Members to enable them to inform members of the public in their Wards.

Members discussed the importance of turning off Christmas lights when leaving the house and not using indoor lights, outside.

The Fire Officer advised, in response to a question, that regular Christmas lights were no less safe than LED Christmas lights so long as the lights held the KITE safety mark.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Fire Officer will notify all elected Members of detail of the 'Winter Warmth Scheme' and the Christmas Campaign to enable them to inform members of the public in their Wards.

**SHS  
58/09**

**Report of Trading Standards Officer**

The Trading Standards Officer had nothing to report.