

SmartWater

Public Meeting Hartlebury Village Hall 10th March 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Councillors present: L. Meredith, D. Simons, E. Jones, C. Broughton-Thomas. S. Tranter

Apologies: A. Murcott project co-ordinator sent apologies via the village hall personnel on the evening.

Cllr Meredith collected names for those present; of which 30 members of the Public attended.

Speakers: Simon Thompson (South Worcestershire Safety Partnership), Stephen representative for SmartWater and Community Support Officer Aidan Goundry (West Mercia Police)

Introduction of speakers given by Cllr Tranter. A comprehensive talk was given by the guest speakers on SmartWater to show how it can help in tractability of stolen items and catching offenders. Much of the talk was based on the questions and answers section on the back of the leaflet that was sent to all households in Hartlebury Parish; refer to doc *Smartwater leaflet-A5 16-02-2016-v2.pdf*

SmartWater can also be used in conjunction with other methods of item protection i.e. Florescent marker pens, SmartWater is useful on difficult items to mark such as jewellery since it can be put on the hallmark for better identification if found by the Police. They used UV light to first find the florescent mark and then use spectrograph analysis to find the chemical composition of rare Earth metals; this gives a unique code that is associated to the owner of the household from where the items have been taken.

Members of the Public asked in-depth questions on the usage of, i.e. the life span of the product, which can be from fives years or more depending on the location on the items. What sort of signage would be supplied and what where the kits like, a sample SmartWarter kit was shown and sent around those present.

CSO Goundry stated that it would be best for the kits to be distributed in May since it is known that the crime levels increase in the summer months with better weather and light, therefore time is of the essence.

It was noted that the attendance was well covered from around the Parish with members of the public from Summerfield, Podmore, Lincomb, Waresley and Hartlebury. Members of the public also found the posters used of help, to act as a reminder to the event.

A Vote was taken of those present:

It was asked of the Public if they did not mind New Homes Bonus to be used for the purchase of SmartWater and that it would mean that funding would not be available for other projects once spent, It was asked for them to give a show of hands and all voted in favour of the SmartWater, it was also asked for those that where against, none were shown. Therefore it was taken that those present had voted for the purchase of the SmartWater kits and distribution to all households in the Parish.

Cllr Meredith also collected details at the end of the meeting of those willing to Volunteer to help assist in distribution with the Police Cadets who CSO Goundry said would assist in the distribution.

It would be good if SmartWater were agreed that it could be done in conjunction with a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme and also while distributing the kits that the Parish Plan and possible Volunteering scheme could be implemented to aid for example the Village hall in gaining new members or for other groups in the parish. It would be useful to collect email addresses or contact numbers for future use.

For other detail refer to the Smartwater meeting minutes from Tuesday 15 December 2015