

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Michael Bray
Mike Bawden
Toby Elliott

Labour Councillors

Kevin Small
Junab Ali
Abdul Amin

Liberal Democrat Councillors

Roger Gower, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
Mr Bruce Clarke, Swindon Ocotal Link
Mike Ide, Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
Andy Lane, Chattanooga, USA
John Mayell, Swindon Ocotal Link
Derrick Gustafson, Highworth Twinning Association

Committee Officer: Iain Tucker (Telephone 01793 463605)

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AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2013.

5. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 5 - 6)

Date of Despatch: 17 September 2013

Key:

CE	-	Chief Executive
GDC		Group Director: Children
GDHSC	-	Group Director: Housing & Social Care
GDER	-	Group Director: Environment & Regeneration
GDBT	-	Group Director: Business Transformation

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

Access Arrangements – The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

Town Twinning Network - Terms of Reference

The Town Twinning Network seeks to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the development of Twinning Links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal) and other existing Twinning Links with towns in the Borough. It will also encourage the development of other international friendship links between the people of the Borough of Swindon and communities in other countries.

The Town Twinning Network will act as a co-ordinating body for interested groups and individuals seeking to promote twinning links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal).

The Town Twinning Network will seek to co-ordinate fund raising and publicity in relation to Town Twinning but will not itself undertake these activities.

The Town Twinning Network will seek to encourage the development of international friendship links and commercial links between the people of Swindon and communities in other countries by the provision of a forum for discussion and the exchange of information.

The Town Twinning Network will receive and consider applications for Town Twinning grants and make recommendations to the Council.

The Town Twinning Network shall not hold funds or enter into any financial transactions.

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TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE 2013

PRESENT:- Councillors Kevin Small (Chair), Junab Ali, Abdul Amin and Mike Bawden; Roger and Vera Gower (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Derrick Gustafson (Highworth Twinning Association).

Apologies for absence were received from Andy Lane, John Mayell, Stephen Taylor, Nazma Ramruttun, Hasan Nur and Councillor Michael Bray.

17. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

18. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

19. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2013, be confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 16 – Application for a Town Twinning Grant.

Roger Gower confirmed that the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association had received a grant of £500 from the Council, although the original amount requested, and recommended for approval by the Town Twinning Network, had been £1000. It was agreed that Councillors Kevin Small and Mike Bawden would meet with the Director of Law and Democratic Services to discuss the process for approving Town Twinning grants and the role of the Network in that process.

20. Involvement of Schools and Young People in Twinning activities

Paddy Bradley, Head of Commissioning – Economy and Attainment, attended the meeting to discuss the involvement of schools and young people in Twinning activities. He explained that many schools develop links through their curriculum activities rather than through the more formal Civic Twinning links. He suggested that a task group be established to visit three Secondary and three Primary Schools in Swindon to find out more about their approach to twinning.

Roger Gower added that, during the recent visit to Swindon by a group from Salzgitter, a visit was arranged to Nova Hreod School where the students gave presentations in both English and in German. The visit had been very successful and the school were keen to repeat this in two years' time for the next visit by

Salzgitter to Swindon.

The Network agreed that a task group be established to visit Primary and Secondary Schools and that a series of questions be established prior to the visits to ensure there was a consistent approach to obtaining relevant information in order to develop a strategy for further engagement with young people with regards to twinning activities. The chair asked for any ideas on suitable questions or areas to be explored to be submitted to the clerk as soon as possible.

Members of the Network also discussed the need for a school link with Salzgitter and it was agreed that it would be worth liaising with the University Technical College when the management team were in place.

Resolved – (1) That the Town Twinning Network establish a task and finish group to visit three Secondary and three Primary schools in Swindon.

(2) That the Network receives a report from the task and finish group on its learning from the visits and its recommendation for the future development of the Network.

(3) That any ideas on suitable questions or areas to be explored with the schools be submitted to the clerk as soon as possible.

(4) That the management team at the University Technical College, when established, be contacted with regards to developing a link with Salzgitter.

21. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links

The Network considered (a) a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services listing the Town Twinning Associations and Links in and around Swindon and (b) the following verbal reports from those Town Twinning Associations and Links present at the meeting:-

Highworth Twinning Association

Derrick Gustafson reported that the AGM had been held on 15th March and that all officers had been re-elected, including the Chair Richard Pearce. It was also agreed that the annual subscription would be raised from £5 to £10.

16 members had attended the Europe Day in Pontorson from 9th – 12th May and it was also the 45th anniversary of the Pontorson-Wassenberg link.

A fundraising Safari Lunch would be held on 30th June which was an opportunity for members to get together socially and a fundraising 'Jazz on the Lawn' would be held on 21st July, for which some of the proceeds would go to the Twinning Association. One of the members was also holding a coffee morning on 15th September in order to raise funds for the association.

Visitors from Wassenberg were due to visit Highworth on the weekend of 26th/27th October although no date had yet been arranged for a visit to Wassenberg which usually occurs every other year. There was also no date set for Pontorson to visit Highworth.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Bruce Clarke reported that he had resigned as chair, along with four other committee members and that other volunteers had now taken over and the first meeting with the new executive would be held following this Network meeting.

Initial reports on the project established by the Emmanuel Church to work with women indicated that it was working very well and had been well received. The next trip to Ocotal would take place in 2014 and Bruce would be circulating information about this in the near future. The likely cost would be around £1500 for a three week visit.

Bruce added that a postcard had been developed of the mural painted at Lawn Academy last year and that he would let all members of the Network have a copy of the postcard when they were printed. SOL were also in the process of developing a link with a school in Ocotal and letters were being exchanged with the hope of moving onto Skype.

Bruce briefly highlighted the progress made with regards to his radio programme 'It's a wonderful world', including coverage of the recent Salzgitter visit. This had grown out of a conversation held at a Network meeting as to how to promote twinning and link activities.

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Roger Gower briefly outlined the programme for the recent visit to Swindon by a group from Salzgitter, including:-

- Visit to Coate Water
- Meeting the Mayor at Lydiard House
- Welcome meal
- Visit to Cardiff
- Visit to Nova Hreod School
- Trip to the Wroughton bowls club, which was covered by the Swindon Evening Advertiser
- Farewell event at the Purton Club.

12 Germans and about 24 members/friends took part in the visit and the Germans were provided with copies of the Advertiser before they left to go home.

Roger would be putting a journal together of the visit, including photographs and would circulate this to members of the network. He added that he had had lengthy discussions about the two twinning associations and how they could develop in the future.

Chattanooga

Andy Lane had reported that he was still talking with Forward Swindon regarding a possible business delegation to Chattanooga and that he would be meeting with a UK Trade and Investment representative later this month.

22.

Dates of future meetings

Future meetings of the Town Twinning Network would be held on the following dates:-

25th September 2013 at 6pm

4th December 2013 at 6pm

2nd April 2014 at 6pm

23.

Any Other Business

The Chair advised that this would be the last meeting for the clerk, Alison Smith and members of the Network expressed their thanks for all her work and wished her well in her new job.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

**Town Twinning Network
2013**

Date: 25th September

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards: All
Locality Affected: All
Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To provide verbal reports updating members of the Town Twinning Network on the activities of the following Town Twinning Associations and Links since the last meeting held on 5th June 2013:-
- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
 - Swindon Ocotal Link
 - Swindon Torun Link
 - Chattanooga, USA
 - Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
 - Highworth Twinning Association
 - Other Twins/Links present at the meeting
- 1.2 To keep the Town Twinning Network informed of the activities of the Town Twins and Links within Swindon and its surrounding areas and to provide a forum for these groups to exchange information and areas of good practice.

2. Recommendations

The Town Twinning Network is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the activities of the Twinning Associations and Links.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Town Twinning Network seeks to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the development of Twinning Links and in the development of other International friendship links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries.
- 3.2 The Town Twinning Network meets four times a year in order to encourage the development of International friendship links and commercial links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries by the provision of a forum for discussion and the exchange of information.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stuart Figini Direct Dial 463612, sfigini@swindon.gov.uk.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network 2013

Date: 25th September

- 3.3 Each of the Town Twins and Links will give a verbal update at the meeting on the activities that have been undertaken since the last Town Twinning Network meeting.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications relating to this update. Any future activity that has financial implications would be subject to a separate report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 This report has no specific implications relating to staff, sustainability, health, rural, crime and disorder.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 There are no specific links between Town Twinning and One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report. This is because it relates to verbal updates from Town Twins and Links present at the meeting, with no changes to staffing, budget or service eligibility criteria.

Risk Management

- 5.6 A risk assessment has not been undertaken.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stuart Figini Direct Dial 463612, sfigini@swindon.gov.uk.