

# Swindon Borough Council

## Town Twinning Network

**Wednesday, 18 June 2014**

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

**At 6.00 p.m.**

### **Conservative Councillors**

Michael Bray  
Toby Elliott  
Andrew Bennett

### **Labour Councillors**

Kevin Small  
Abdul Amin  
Junab Ali

### **Liberal Democrat Councillors**

Mark Sarnowski, Swindon Torun Link  
Hassan Nur, Salahley, Somalialand  
Roger Gower, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association  
Mr Bruce Clarke, Swindon Ocotal Link  
Mike Ide, Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association  
John Mayell, Swindon Ocotal Link  
Derrick Gustafson, Highworth Twinning Association  
Nazma Ramruttun, Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning

**Committee Officer:** Stuart Figini (Telephone 01793 463612)

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## **AGENDA**

- 1. Appointment of Chair**
- 2. Appointment of Vice-Chair**
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)**  
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2014.

## **7. Town Twinning Network - Updates**

The Director of Law and Democratic Services will provide an update at the meeting on the following issues:

- Town Twinning Grant Applications – Cultural and Educational Activities
- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

## **8. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 5 - 8)**

**Date of Despatch:** 10 June 2014

**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, 2 APRIL 2014**

PRESENT:- Hassan Nur (Salahley, Somaliland), Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Junab Ali, Councillor Abdul Amin, Councillor Mike Bawden, Councillor Toby Elliott, Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Beau Bassin/Rose Hill, Mauritius Link) and Mark Sarnowski (Swindon Torun Link)

Apologies for absence were received from Eileen Mochan, Roger Gower, Mr Bruce Clarke, Mike Ide, Andy Lane, John Mayell, Councillor Michael Bray and Derrick Gustafson

#### **32. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

Councillor Junab Ali declared a personal interest in Minute numbers 36 and 37 as he was a member of the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association.

#### **33. Chairman's Announcements**

1. The Chair reported that this meeting was Councillor Mike Bawden's last Town Twinning Network meeting as he was not seeking re-election at the Local Elections in May 2014. The Chairman wished him well for the future and thanked him for his valuable contribution to the Network and the Council.
2. The Chair reported that Andy Lane, Vice Chair and Chattanooga, USA link had decided to end the relationship link with Chattanooga and the Network. The Chair wished Andy all the best for the future and agreed to write a letter of thanks.

#### **34. Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

#### **35. Minutes**

##### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2013 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to Nazma Ramruttun's name being added to the list of those giving apologies for absence.

#### **36. Town Twinning Grants Applications - Cultural and Educational Activities**

The Network considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services reviewing the criteria for consideration of Town Twinning grant applications along with the Council's definition of 'Cultural and Education Activities'.

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that the word 'culture' was subjective and could have many different meanings to different people depending on their viewpoint. The report highlighted the definition adopted by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and suggested that this interpretation was one that this Council should use alongside the existing guidance and criteria for considering Town Twinning grant applications.

The Network were reminded that the basis for awarding grants was that they would strengthen links between Swindon and its twin towns and widen the horizons of the individuals and groups involved in twinning activities.

It was suggested that twinning activities needed to be taken more seriously within Swindon, especially as there were positive benefits for the economy, tourism, social and business community. A view supported by the Network.

The Chair proposed that a wider consultation be undertaken with those organisations connected with the Network and all 57 Councillors about the report, and in particular their opinion on the proposed definition of 'Cultural and Education Activities', prior to its adoption by the Network. It was also suggested that Cabinet be approached with a request for a 'one-off' budget of £10,000 to support Town Twinning activities over the next 3-5 years.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Cabinet be asked to consider a 'one-off' budget of £10,000 to be administered by the Town Twinning Network to support Town Twinning Activities over the next 3-5 years.
2. That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be asked to undertake a consultation of the organisations connected to the Network along with the 57 Borough Councillors to canvass opinion on the definition of Cultural and Educational Activities contained in the report, prior to its adoption by the Network.

**37. Swindon Salzgitter Twinning - 40th Anniversary Celebrations**

The Network considered the report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services about arrangements to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swindon/Salzgitter Town Twinning during 2015.

The report highlighted the discussions held with various Heads of Service Areas within the Council and the possible options open to the Council to help with the celebrations, including appropriate displays at the Civic Offices and Central Library and Communications support and publicity of events.

The Network, along with Councillor David Renard, Leader of the Council, indicated their support to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. There was an expectation that there would be mutual visits to Swindon and Salzgitter during 2015 and recognition that appropriate resources would be necessary to support events. A number of ideas were suggested for the celebrations including:

- Participation of Schools – German themed events
- Promotion of events and activities through local papers and radio

- To ask the Salzgitter delegation visiting Swindon in 2014 to bring any materials that would help with displays at the Civic Offices and Central Library
- In promoting the economic links between the Towns, to ask Forward Swindon to identify German companies based in Swindon and encourage them to become involved in the celebrations for example BMW, Siemens, VW and MANN
- To seek the support and participation of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the activities planned for 2015
- To 'tie-in' the visit from Salzgitter to Swindon with the Council's Annual Council and Civic Dinner for 2015

#### **Resolved:**

1. That the arrangements detailed in the report and highlighted above be supported
2. That the Cabinet be asked to approve a 'one-off' budget to support the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations during 2015 of the Swindon/Salzgitter Town Twinning link

### **38. 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:

#### **Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association**

Councillor Junab Ali reported on the recent events as detailed below, on behalf of Roger Gower who was unable to attend this meeting:

- Held 2 Social meetings both of which were well supported and enjoyed by those who attended
- Had 2 Business meetings. The January meeting was poorly attended but there was a good showing at the meeting in March. Enthusiastic discussion led to several decisions being made:
  - details of the visit to Salzgitter in June 2014 were completed
  - the Association would start setting up their own website
  - No change to when evening meetings were held
  - Visit by student of English from Salzgitter. Members of the Association would host her and has been the conduit for the Council to find her a volunteer posting for her 3-month stay in Swindon. Association members had agreed that they would take her on visits in and around Swindon and engage her in other events.
  - There were vigorous discussion about means of raising funds and enhancing visibility of the Association with the public. Work would go forward on the ideas suggested.
  - Planning had started on the events in the programme for the visit by Salzgitter in summer 2015. Vitally important to coordinate activities with the Council on celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the twinning between the two towns so that events were not duplicated.

**Salahley, Somaliland**

Hassan Nur reported that Salahley road construction project, which would connect Hargeisa to the largest district under the Marodijeh region in the south and of the most populated rural district in the Hawd of Hargeisa was progressing well.

**Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning**

Nazma Ramruttun reported that the former Mayor of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill, Mauritius, Ramalingum Maistry, who instigated the Friendship Twinning between the two towns in 2008 had visited Swindon in August last year and was very well received by the Mayor of Swindon. A reception was held for Ramalingum at Voluntary Action Swindon, where the Council's Chief Executive, Gavin Jones, and Leader of the Council, Councillor David Renard were also in attendance.

**Swindon Torun Link**

Mark Sarnowski spoke about a recent visit that took place to Torun. Members asked to receive advance notice of future visits to Torun so that they could consider attending.

**39. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 18 June 2014 starting at 6:00pm.



## Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

### Town Twinning Network

Date: 18 June 2014

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

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#### 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 2 April 2014:-

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link
- Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
- Highworth Twinning Association
- Mauritius Friendship Twinning
- Salahley, Somalialand
- 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.

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

# Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

## Town Twinning Network

Date: 18 June 2014

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- 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
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stuart Figini, Direct Dial 463612, [sfigini@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:sfigini@swindon.gov.uk).

# **Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links**

**Town Twinning Network**

**Date: 18 June 2014**

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## **8. Appendices**

### **8.1 None**

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