

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 3 December 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 (Chair)
Abdul Amin
Junab Ali

Richard Pearce, Highworth Twinning Association
Mark Sarnowski, Swindon Torun Link
Hassan Nur, Salahley, Somalialand
Roger Gower, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
Mike Ide, Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
Nazma Ramruttun, Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning
Cristina Bennett, Swindon Ocotal Link
Cecilia Olley, Swindon Ocotal Link

Committee Officer: Stuart Figini (Telephone 01793 463612)

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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 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2014.

5. Swindon Salzgitter Twinning - 40th Anniversary Celebrations

To receive an update about the funding arrangements for Council led activities to

celebrate the 40th anniversary of the twinning arrangement between Swindon and Salzgitter.

The Network is also asked to consider planning for the activities detailed in the minutes attached at agenda item 4.

6. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 7 - 10)

Date of Despatch: 25 November 2014

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Director of Law and Democratic Services, we will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the "Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance" available on the Council's Website.

(<http://www5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13338&pat> or from the Committee Officer named above.

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, 8 OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT:- Roger Gower (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), John Mayell (Swindon Ocotal Link), Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Abdul Amin, Councillor Andrew Bennett, Councillor Junab Ali, Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link) and Cecilia Olley (Swindon Ocotal Link)

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Sarnowski, Hassan Nur, Mike Ide, Councillor Michael Bray, Councillor Toby Elliott, Nazma Ramruttun and Richard Pearce

47. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved:

That Councillor Andrew Bennett be appointed Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

48. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman reminded members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. There were no declarations.

49. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

50. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

51. Swindon Salzgitter Twinning - 40th Anniversary Celebrations

The Network considered an update report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services about arrangements to mark the 40th anniversary of the Swindon/Salzgitter Town Twinning link in 2015.

Members were informed that the previous request for a 'one-off' budget to support the 40th Anniversary was declined by Cabinet at its meeting held on 25 June 2014 as there was a lack of detailed financial information on which the Cabinet could base a decision.

The report highlighted the discussions held with various Heads of Service Areas within the Council and the possible options open to the Council to become involved with the celebrations. Appendix A of the report detailed the proposed events with costings where appropriate which would complement the events planned by the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association as detailed at Appendix B of the report.

The Network was informed that since the report was prepared a number of events and new ideas had been included in the proposals, which included revised and updated costs.

It was proposed that the Twinning celebrations and the Swindon 175 celebrations taking place in 2015 could be linked, especially as Salzgitter had a similar railway heritage as Swindon.

Resolved:

1. That the proposed events and ideas, detailed at Appendix A to these minutes be supported.
2. That additional events, once evaluated, be added to those identified in Appendix A.
3. That the Cabinet be asked to approve a 'one-off' budget up to £10,000 to fund the Council promoted events detailed at Appendix A to these minutes to ensure that Swindon Borough Council has the capacity of marking the 40th anniversary celebrations during 2015 of the Swindon/Salzgitter Town Twinning link and to continue promoting healthy international links.
4. That the Town Twinning Network continues to explore funding streams to offset the 'one-off' budget requested at 3 above.

52. 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

Roger Gower reported on a number of recent events as detailed below:

- A draft programme of events had been prepared for the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Link 40th Anniversary celebrations in 2015. Included in the programme was a visit to Arkells Brewery and a local fire station. It was anticipated that the Mayor would attend at least one of the events in the programme. The programme had been published earlier than normal so that the Associations events would be complimented by any Council run events
- The Associations AGM was due to be held on 17 October 2014.
- The Association had commissioned a new website which should be ready to launched in the new year
- The German student being hosted by members of the Association was nearing the end of her 3 month stay in Swindon

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

John Mayell reported on the following:

- A number of changes to the Swindon Ocotal Link representatives on the Town Twinning Network. Eileen Mochan had withdrawn her involvement with SOL and the Network for personal reasons. John Mayell and Bruce Clarke had been replaced as representatives by Cristina Bennett and Cecilia Olley.
- Held a successful duck race on 17 August 2014. The Mayor was in

attendance and the event raised £1400

- The SOL AGM was due to be held on 13 November 2014
- A new website for SOL was now available at www.solswindon.co.uk

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Appendix A

<u>Event</u>	<u>Indicative cost</u> <u>£</u>
German Style Market – Initial discussions held with inSwindon about the type of markets available including German food, Arts and craft and seasonal.	Potentially cost neutral
Display's in various town centre locations of material already available and held by the Council and Twinning Association, promoting the history and international links with Salzgitter. Locations could include - Brunel Plaza/Library/Museum/Civic Offices.	Potentially cost neutral – Officer time
Schools event – Concert and raising the awareness of the international link – Waiting for responses	500.00
Youth Service led exchange – Waiting for a response	1500.00
Visit of Salzgitter delegation to Swindon to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a celebration dinner with an invite to the German Ambassador – 30 invites at £30 a head to present a commemorative gift, New Coat of Arms for Salzgitter Council 	900.00 200.00 500.00
Members visit to Salzgitter - To be funded from the Mayoral Town Twinning budget	2700.00
Media awareness campaign provided by Comms	Officer time only
Salzgitter visit to Swindon (Civic visit)	2800.00
12 months of German themed food events at Council offices – Possible ideas – throughout the coming year In House Catering would add a theme to the catering area (Hut 8) with some striking decoration to act as continual visual reminder of this significant year, linked in with German themed menu items running each month supported with events such as Cheese tasting with German regional cheeses, Cake tasting (superb chocolate) and bringing in some German branded soft drinks and snacks as a point of difference. Picking a good week in the summer In House Catering could host a German themed BBQ outside for the staff and invited guests. This can all be building up to a larger Oktoberfest event. Costs to the Council would include décor and point of sale	500.00

over 52 weeks. Investment would be matched by In House Catering.	
Support for Swindon/Salzgitter Link Association awareness, promotion and exchange	900.00
Swindon Salzgitter Website	100.00
New bench plaque in the Town Gardens, Old Town	300.00
GWR 175 Celebration (rail link) and joint celebrations at STEAM	To be identified
Oktoberfest as a German awareness event	To be identified
Total	10900.00

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 3 December 2014

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 8th October 2014:-

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

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

Date: 3 December 2014

- 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.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 3 December 2014

8. Appendices

8.1 None

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