

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 15 April 2015

Committee Room 2, 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)

Email: sfigini@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH
(Telephone 01793 445500)

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 5 - 8)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2014.

5. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 9 - 12)

Date of Despatch: 07 April 2015

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&path=0>) 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, 3 DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT:- Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Michael Bray, Councillor Abdul Amin, Councillor Toby Elliott, Councillor Andrew Bennett, Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning), Councillor Junab Ali and Cecilia Olley (Swindon Ocotal Link)

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Pearce, Mark Sarnowski, Hassan Nur, Roger Gower, Mike Ide and Cristina Bennett

53. 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.

54. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

55. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

56. Swindon Salzgitter Twinning - 40th Anniversary Celebrations

The Chair reported on (i) the recent Cabinet decision in relation to the funding of Council supported activities to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Swindon/Salzgitter Twinning; (ii) the recent Mayoral visit to Salzgitter and discussion between the civic leaders of Swindon and Salzgitter about the Anniversary celebrations; (iii) details of a civic Anniversary dinner and (iv) the establishment of a small working group to consider the detailed planning of the Council supported Anniversary activities.

The Chair explained that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 22nd October 2014 agreed, that further to Minute 51(3) of the Town Twinning Network, the Deputy Leader of the Council meet with the Chair of the Town Twinning Network and the relevant Council officers to consider the feasibility and financial implications of the Networks proposals.

The Chair suggested that a Working Group be set up to consider the detailed planning of the 40th anniversary celebrations and asked for volunteers to serve on the Group.

Resolved:

1. That a Working Group be set up to consider the detailed planning of events to celebrate the Swindon Salzgitter 40th anniversary.

2. That the following representatives serve on the Working Group:
 - Kevin Small – Chair of Town Twinning Network
 - Andrew Bennett – Vice-Chair of Town Twinning Network and Deputy Mayor
 - Toby Elliott
 - Abdul Amin
 - Brian Mattock - Deputy Leader – as agreed by Cabinet
 - Roger Gower – Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
 - Cecilia Olley – Swindon Ocotal Link
 - Stephen Taylor, Director of Law and Democratic Services or his representative
3. That the first meeting of the Working Group be held at 5:00pm on Monday 15th December 2014 at the Civic Offices

57. 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

A report by Roger Gower about the following events was circulated:

- At the SSTA AGM all officers were re-elected unopposed. Subscription fees remain unchanged. The proposed programme for the Salzgitter visit was discussed at length.
- The programme for the visit by the DEG – Salzgitter is being further developed.
- The dates for the visit have yet to be finalised but it will take place in June 2015.
- The SSTA web site is now live and can be accessed at the address www.swindon-salzgitter-twinning.co.uk.
- The German student here for a 3-month study period returned home in late October.
- On behalf of the SSTA, may I wish all members of the Town Twinning Network a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
- Contact has been made with Arkell's Brewery and the discussions were very helpful. Work is in hand on the agreed actions.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Cecilia Olley reported on the following:

- A grant from the Swindon Ocotal Link for £3,500 had been sent to Ocotal for bursaries. The bursaries would be used to sponsor the education of a child

- with \$100 covering the fees for one year
- A number of successful fund raising events were held.
- The Link's Treasurer had recently left
- The Link's AGM was held in November 2014
- Arrangements were being made for a curry night in January 2015

Swindon Mauritius Friendship Link

Nazma Ramruttun reported on a trip she had made to Mauritius in September 2014 and spoke about the elections due in December 2014 and the election campaigning taking place. A further visit would be made in February 2015.

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Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 15th April 2015

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 3rd December 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: 15th April 2015

- 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: 15th April 2015

8. Appendices

8.1 None

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