

# Swindon Borough Council

## Town Twinning Network

**Wednesday, 3 June 2015**

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

**At 6.00 p.m.**

**Conservative  
Councillors**

**Labour  
Councillors**

To be confirmed

To be confirmed

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. 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 5 - 6)**  
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015.
- 7. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public**

*Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the Town Twinning Network is, therefore, recommended to resolve "That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matter referred to in the item listed below, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".*

| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Paragraph No.</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>9</b>        | <b>1</b>             |

## **8. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 7 - 10)**

### **PART 2 (TO BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT)**

## **9. Application for a Town Twinning Grant (Pages 11 - 26)**

**Date of Despatch:** 21 May 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, 15 APRIL 2015

PRESENT:- Roger Gower (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mike Ide (Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association), Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Abdul Amin, Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning), Councillor Junab Ali and Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link)

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Pearce, Mark Sarnowski, Hassan Nur, Councillor Michael Bray, Councillor Toby Elliott, Councillor Andrew Bennett and Cecilia Olley

### 5. 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.

### 6. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

### 7. Minutes

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 8. 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 the following:

- The SSTA had held 3 meetings since December 2014
- The programme for the Salzgitter visit from 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 was nearly finalised.
- Roger spoke at length about the proposed programme for the visit, in particular about the trip to Arkles Brewery, Nova Hreod School, the bench plaque in the Town Gardens, Lydiard House, and the proposed trip to visit Concorde in Bristol. The Network noted that the visit was now not going to take place as the Association was unable to board Concorde and the hiring of a coach for the day was proving to be rather costly. The Salzgitter guests were being asked to suggest where they would like to visit in place of the Concorde trip.

- A local radio station programme called 'What a Wonderful World' focussed on Salzgitter
- The SSTA web site was now live and had received 3 contact enquiries.

The Network noted that there were opportunities for the general public and members of the Network to become involved in any of the Swindon Salzgitter 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. A copy of the SSTA programme would be circulated to the Network for information.

It was suggested that consideration be given at the next Network meeting to a project, possibly involving sports clubs that all Swindon Twinning Associations/Links could become involved with.

### **Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)**

Cristina Bennett reported on the following:

- A meeting of the Link was held recently
- The Link's Treasurer had recently left and attempts to fill the vacancy were being made
- The Link were looking at ways to enhance its profile, including the addition of a Facebook page and associated training for Link members
- It appeared that a mural of Ocotal, previously placed at the Link Centre, had been removed when the Leisure facility was transferred to GLL. Cristina asked if this could be followed up and the mural put back in place
- The Link was currently looking at fundraising issues and wished to host some guests from Ocotal. Cristina asked for details of how to apply for a Town Twinning Grant.

### **Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association**

Mike Ide reported that the Association were currently meeting as a social group and that it was proving difficult to generate interest in twinning activities amongst the residents of Wroughton.

Mike explained that Wroughton Youth Football Club had shown an interest in attending an exchange football match in St Germain les Corbiel in May 2015, however there was not a lot of time before the event and the Club had not received a lot of notice to prepare for the trip.

### **Swindon Mauritius Friendship Link**

Nazma Ramruttun reported on a trip she had made to Mauritius in February 2015. Unfortunately the Mayor was out of the country at the time of her visit, however, Nazma was visiting Mauritius again in June 2015 and would be speaking with the Chief Executive about the possibility of Mauritius setting up a Twinning Committee in a similar way to Swindon.

It was understood that the Chief Executive from Mauritius was travelling to Swindon in a few months and Nazma suggested that members of the Network could meet him once he arrived.

## Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

### Town Twinning Network

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

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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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015:-

- 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.

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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: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

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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: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015**

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## **8. Appendices**

### **8.1 None**

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## Agenda Item 9

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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