

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 30 September 2015

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative

Councillors

Michael Bray

Andrew Bennett

Maureen Penny

Labour

Councillors

Kevin Small (Chair)

Junab Ali

Teresa Page

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 5 - 8)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2015.

5. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 9 - 10)

Date of Despatch: 22 September 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 JUNE 2015

PRESENT:- Mark Sarnowski (Swindon Torun Link), Roger Gower (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mike Ide (Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association), Cecilia Olley (Swindon Ocotal Link), Councillor Junab Ali, Councillor Michael Bray, Councillor Teresa Page, Councillor Kevin Small (Chair) and Councillor Oliver Donachie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew Bennett, Hassan Nur

9. Appointment of Chair

Resolved:

That Councillor Kevin Small be appointed Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

10. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved:

That the appointment of a Vice-Chair of the Town twinning Network be deferred until the next meeting on 30th September 2015.

11. Declarations of Interest

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

Councillors Kevin Small and Junab Ali made personal declarations of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 9 in their capacity as members of the Salzgitter Twinning Association and therefore did not participate in the voting on the grant application from the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association.

12. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

13. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

14. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved: That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred in Agenda Item 9 on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that the public

interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned (Minute 17 refers.)

15. 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 programme for the Salzgitter visit from 18th – 25th June 2015 was now 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 and Lydiard House.
- A local radio station programme called 'What a Wonderful World' focussing on Salzgitter, had recently interviewed Roger and his wife, along with a member of the SSTA who was born in Salzgitter.
- A British film maker had recently recorded material in Swindon for a film that would measure the attitudes of the general public to Germany and the German people. It was understood that the film maker was delighted with the responses received from the general public.
- The SSTA web site was still attracting interest.

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

The Chair reported on a visit to Swindon from a motorbike group and a veteran football group from Salzgitter during the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May 2015.

Swindon Torum Link

Mark Sarnowski reported that an artist from Torun had been commissioned to design a memorial for Queens Park. The memorial would commemorate the contribution of the Polish people through the years towards the development and culture of Swindon. Mark spoke about the funding issues and explained that a book of dedication would be available for people to sign and also make a contribution towards the memorial.

The Network noted that an exhibition on Torun was also being considered for the future.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Cecilia Olley reported on the following:

- Meetings were being held every two months
- Fundraising was continuing

- It was understood that the Nicaraguan government were planning to build a canal from one side of the country to the other side – a similar concept to the Panama Canal.

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 a football team representing Wroughton was unable to attend the exchange football match being held in St Germain les Corbeil during May 2015.

16. Swindon Salzgitter 40th Anniversary Celebrations

The Chair updated the Network on the work of the Swindon Salzgitter 40th Anniversary Working Group. He reported that the last meeting was on 30th March 2015 and that a further meeting was being arranged.

It was noted that Councillor Toby Elliott was no longer a member of the Network and subsequently no longer a member of the Working Group. Councillor Oliver Donachie expressed an interest in replacing Councillor Elliott in attending future Working Group meetings.

The Network noted that Town Twinning Associations and Links generally attracted the participation of older residents and consideration was given to how younger residents could be encouraged to appreciate and understand the benefits of Town Twinning and become more involved. It was suggested that social media could play a major part in heightening the awareness amongst young people, especially through the school system. It was also suggested that the wealth of information on Town Twinning held by the Associations and links should be documented for future generations.

Resolved:

1. That a further meeting of the Swindon Salzgitter 40th Anniversary Working Group be arranged.
2. That Councillor Donachie investigates the opportunity of using social media in Schools to help pupils engage with learning foreign languages and strengthening the links with Town Twinning.

17. Application for a Town Twinning Grant

The Town Twinning Network considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services about a grant request received from the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association.

Roger Gower, Chair of the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association explained that the application for a Town Twinning grant of £1000 was to assist with the costs of a cultural visit to Swindon by a group from Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft from 18th June to 26th June 2015 and briefly outlined the programme planned for the visit.

Roger confirmed that the total cost for the visit was £1720 and that the costs of

hosting and entertaining the guests from Salzgitter amounted to £603. Any deficit would be paid for by members of the Association and host families would pick up any costs relating to guests staying in their homes. He added that transport costs were included as this was a reciprocal arrangement with Salzgitter who always ensured that visitors from Swindon were transported to and from the airport.

The Network noted that a budget of £15,250 was available for Town Twinning Activities. However, £10,000 of that budget had been agreed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 22nd October 2014 to fund Council supported events to commemorate the 40th Anniversary since the formation of the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association.

It was suggested that a grant of £1,000 be supported and that £500 should come from the £10,000 Council contribution for the 40th Anniversary and the remaining £500 to come from the £5250 allocated specifically for Town Twinning Grants.

Resolved : That the Town Twinning Network recommends to the Director of Law and Democratic Services that a grant of £1000 be approved to assist with the costs of a cultural visit to Swindon by a group from Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft from 18th June until 26th June 2015 as suggested above.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 30th September 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 June 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.
- 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.

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: 30th September 2015

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

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None

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