

# Swindon Borough Council

## Town Twinning Network

**Wednesday, 16 December 2015**

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

**At 6.00 p.m.**

### **Conservative Councillors**

Michael Bray  
Andrew Bennett  
Maureen Penny (Vice-  
Chair)

### **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)

Email: [sfigini@swindon.gov.uk](mailto: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 3 - 4)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

### **5. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 5 - 6)**

**Date of Despatch:** 08 December 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.

**TOWN TWINNING NETWORK**

**WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor Maureen Panny (Vice Chair in the Chair), Mark Sarnowski (Swindon Torun Link), Councillor Andrew Bennett, Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning), Councillor Junab Ali, Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link), Councillor Teresa Page and Councillor Maureen Penny

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Pearce, Hassan Nur, Roger Gower, Mike Ide, Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Michael Bray and Cecilia Olley

**22. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

**Resolved:**

That Councillor Maureen Penny be appointed Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

**23. 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.

**24. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

**25. Minutes**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**26. 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**

In the absence of Roger Gower the Clerk reported that the Association had now received the Town Twinning Grant.

Councillor Bennett reported on the visit to Swindon by a number of Twinning Association members from Salzgitter from 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015. He explained that the programme was designed to allow for organised visits, informal gatherings and free time when hosts could entertain their guests as they wished. It was noted that the places visited were chosen as being as local to Swindon as possible.

The Network noted that a civic visit would be taking place by Swindon members to Salzgitter from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October 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.

**Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)**

Cristina Bennett reported that SOL had held their last meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September and appointed a new treasurer. Their AGM was scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The annual duck race had recently been held and raised £1300. This event was followed by a BBQ. SOL would be holding a curry night to which an invitation was being extended to all members of the Network.

SOL were considering making arrangements to have a visitor from Ocotal in 2016, however this was dependant on the available finances.

**Highworth Twinning Association**

Councillor Maureen Penny reported that a tree planting ceremony would be taking place to mark the friendship between Swindon and Pontorson.

**Swindon Mauritius Friendship Link**

Nazma Ramruttun reported that she had been to Mauritius in July 2015 and met with the Mayor. She explained that the former Mayor was visiting Swindon on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and would be meeting the Mayor of Swindon, the Chair of the Town Twinning Network and would be speaking at the Broadgreen Community meeting.

**Resolved:** That the Activities of the Twinning Associations and Links be noted.

## Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 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 30<sup>th</sup> September 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](mailto:sfigini@swindon.gov.uk).

# Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 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](mailto:sfigini@swindon.gov.uk).