

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 27 April 2016

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Michael Bray
Andrew Bennett
Maureen Penny

Labour Councillors

Kevin Small (Chair)
Junab Ali
Teresa Page

Liberal Democrat Councillors

Richard Pearce, Highworth Twinning Association
Mark Sarnowski, Swindon Torun Link
Hassan Nur, Salahley, Somalialand
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 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2016.

5. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the Standards Committee 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 matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they

involve 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>
7	1 and 3

6. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 7 - 8)

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

7. Application for a Town Twinning Grant (Pages 9 - 24)

Date of Despatch: 19 April 2016

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, 16 DECEMBER 2015

PRESENT:- Mark Sarnowski (Swindon Torun Link), Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Andrew Bennett, Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning) and Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotol Link)

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Pearce, Hassan Nur, Roger Gower, Mike Ide, Councillor Michael Bray, Councillor Junab Ali, Cecilia Olley, Councillor Teresa Page and Councillor Maureen Penny

27. 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.

28. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

29. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2015, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

30. 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 (SSTA)

Councillor Bennett and the Chair reported that a number of Swindon Borough Council Members had been involved in a Civic visit to Salzgitter from 23rd to 27th October 2015. He spoke about the programme of organised visits and discussions that took place with the Salzgitter Oberurgermeister (Mayor) about apprenticeship links with Swindon. The Network noted that the Mayor in Salzgitter had an executive role, similar to the role of the Mayor of London, which was very different to the ceremonial role undertaken by the Mayor in Swindon.

It was noted that the Salzgitter area had welcomed a number of refugees from Syria and that capacity to house them was available in the area.

The Chair informed the Network that the SSTA held its Annual General Meeting on 20th November 2015 and the Chair and Secretary of the Association had stood down. Nominations were received for the post of Treasurer but not for the Chair or Secretary's posts. This led to the conclusion that the Association was unable to proceed and after much discussion, including advice from the senior members,

unable to attend the meeting, a vote was taken to close down the SSTA.

The Chair read a letter that he had sent to Roger Gower, former Chair and Secretary of the SSTA, explaining his sadness about the decision made by the SSTA and questioned whether the decision could be considered further with a view that younger volunteers continue the work of the SSTA. It was noted that the Leader of the Council supported the possibility of the SSTA continuing to operate, and that discussions about this were ongoing.

Swindon Torum Link

Mark Sarnowski reported that an artist from Torun had been commissioned to design a memorial for Queens Park to commemorate the contribution of the Polish people through the years towards the development and culture of Swindon. Mark spoke about the funding issues and circulated a fundraising leaflet. He explained that the current figure raised was £1020 and that a book of dedication would be available for people to sign and also make a contribution towards the memorial. Members of the Network suggested other areas of funding that the Link could consider including the Royal Air Force Association.

The Chair suggested that the placing of the memorial in Queens Park could be linked with the 60th Anniversary celebrations marking the end of the WWII.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Cristina Bennett reported that SOL had held a very successful fundraising event in December 2015 with all 50 tickets sold. Cristina explained that arrangements were being made for two visitors to come from Ocotal to Swindon in 2016, however this was dependant on the available finances. It was anticipated that SOL would be making an application for a Town twinning Grant to help with the funding of the visit.

Swindon Mauritius Friendship Link

Nazma Ramruttun reported that the former Mayor of Mauritius had visited Swindon on 12th October 2015 and met the Mayor of Swindon, the Chair of the Town Twinning Network and spoke at the Broadgreen Community meeting.

The Network noted that the current Mayor in Mauritius was very interested in developing links with Swindon, however there was a need consider further how links would be fostered.

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

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 27th April 2016

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 16th December 2015:-
- 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: 27th April 2016

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
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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.

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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