

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 8 June 2016

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

**Conservative
Councillors**

Oliver Donachie

Claire Ellis

Caryl Sydney-Smith

Labour

Councillors

Kevin Small

Junab Ali

Derique Montaut

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

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 27th April 2016.

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

Date of Despatch: 31 May 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.

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2016

PRESENT:- Councillor Kevin Small (Chair), Councillors Junab Ali, Teresa Page and Maureen Penny
Cristina Bennett and Cecilia Olley (Swindon Ocotal Link)

An apology for absence was received from Mark Sarnowski

31. Declarations of Interest

Cristina Bennett and Cecilia Olley made declarations of interest in respect of agenda item no. 7. and did not vote in respect of this item.

32. Public Question Time

There were no public questions

33. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2015 be confirmed and signed.

34. 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 to in agenda item no 7, (“Application for a Town Twinning Grant”) on the grounds that they involve the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 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.

35. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links

The Network considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services listing the Town Twinning Associations and Links in and around Swindon and verbal reports from the following Town Twinning Associations and Links present at the meeting.

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association (SSTA)

The Chair advised the Network that no progress had been made on the possibility of the SSTA continuing to operate. He advised that the Mayor of Salzgitter was visiting Swindon in early October 2016.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Cristina Bennett advised that two visitors were arriving from Nicaragua on the 28th April. She circulated a timetable of events that had been planned for the visitors and

extended an invitation to members of the Network to attend any of the events, in particular the Civic Reception organised for the 6th May and the Spanish Evening to be held at the Arts Centre on the 9th May.

Cecelia Olley circulated a copy of “A Taste of Nicaragua” cookbook that was due to be launched on the 7th May and would be available for purchase at the Arts Centre.

It was noted that Councillors had already been invited to the Civic Reception and it was agreed that, deadlines permitting, an item promoting the event be placed in the Members Bulletin.

36. Application for a Town Twinning Grant

On consideration of a report of the Director, Law and Democratic Services, concerning an application for a Town Twinning Grant from the Swindon Ocotal Link.
Resolved – (1) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Twinning and the Chef Executive be recommended:

(a) That a Town Twinning Grant of £1000 be made to Swindon Ocotal Link towards the costs of a cultural visit to Swindon by two guests from Ocotal Nicaragua from 29th April until 17th May 2016.

(b) That a further grant of £250 be made to Swindon Ocotal Link from monies unspent from the Salzgitter funding.

(2) That future copies of the “Report from the Town Twinning Associations and Links” report include a brief paragraph outlining the amount unspent in the Town Twinning Fund.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 8th June 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 27th April 2016:-
- 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: 8th June 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. However, periodically applications are received for Town Twinning Grants. The current reserve available for Grants is £3,752.38 (subject to a current Grant application of £1,250 from SOL being approved by the Leader of the Council)

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: 8th June 2016

8. Appendices

8.1 None

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