

# Swindon Borough Council

## Town Twinning Network

**Wednesday, 5 October 2016**

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices

**At 6.00 p.m.**

**Conservative  
Councillors**

Oliver Donachie

Claire Ellis

Caryl Sydney-Smith

**Labour**

**Councillors**

Kevin Small (Chair)

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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(Telephone 01793 445500)

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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 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

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

**Date of Despatch:** 26 September 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://ww5.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, 8 JUNE 2016**

PRESENT:- Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Junab Ali, Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link), Councillor Claire Ellis and Councillor Caryl Sydney-Smith

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Sarnowski, Hassan Nur and Cecilia Olley

**37. Appointment of Chair**

Resolved – That Councillor Kevin Small be Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the Municipal Year 2016/17  
(Councillor Small hereupon took the Chair)

**38. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

Resolved – That Councillor Caryl Sydney-Smith be Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the Municipal Year 2016/17

**39. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.  
No declarations of interest were made.

**40. Public Question Time**

There were no public questions

**41. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 be accepted as a correct record.

**42. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links**

The network considered and noted a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services listing the Town Twinning Associations and Links in and around Swindon.

Verbal reports were given from the following Town Twinning Associations and Links present at the meeting.

**Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)**

Christina Bennett reported on events held during the recent cultural visit to Swindon by two guests from Ocotal Nicaragua. She referred to the Civic Reception held at the Civic Offices on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016, a night of dance at the Wyvern Theatre and the Spanish Evening held at the Arts Centre on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016. She advised the

Network that all events had been a great success and undertook to provide a more detailed account of the cultural visit to a future meeting of the Network.

The Chair suggested that a press release could be issued covering the work Swindon has done for Ocotal.

### **Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association (SSTA)**

The Chair advised that the Mayor of Salzgitter would be visiting Swindon in early October 2016. He gave a brief description of the geographic area and other features covered by Salzgitter, together with its major employers including a steelworks and Manns Trucks.

## Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

### Town Twinning Network

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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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 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016:-
- Swindon Ocotal Link
  - Swindon Torun Link
  - Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
  - Highworth Twinning Association
  - 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.

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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: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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## 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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