

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 14 December 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)

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 5th October 2016.

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

Date of Despatch: 01 December 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, 5 OCTOBER 2016

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Sarnowski, Hassan Nur and Nazma Ramruttun

7. 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.

8. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

9. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

10. 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)

Cristina Bennett and Cecilia Olley reported on the events held during the recent cultural visit to Swindon by two guests from Ocotal, including a Civic Reception, held at the Civic Offices on the 6th May 2016, a night of dance at the Wyvern Theatre, a Spanish Evening held at the Arts Centre on the 9th May 2016, the launch of a cookbook 'A Taste of Nicaragua' and speaking with pupils at Lydiard Park Academy. The Network noted that all the events had been a great success. It was suggested that the cookbook could be sold at a number of outlets and the possibility of selling the book at the Central Library would be investigated. SOL felt that this was the most successful visit in its 25 year history.

The Network noted how the Link had developed over the last 25 years, with funds raised to help support a number of projects in Ocotal and how the quality of life has improved for those benefiting from the financial support. In particular the funds had been used to help provide food at a refuge for abused women and providing school transport, uniform and books for about 40 children.

In addition to the recent visit, SOL had recently held its Annual General Meeting,

where the main theme focused on the future of the Link and how this would be developed in the years to come. It was noted that a number of SOL representatives would be travelling to Ocotol during December 2016 and would report at a future meeting.

Swindon/Salzgitter Twinning (Civic Visit)

The Chair reported on the Civic Visit by the Mayor of Salzgitter and a delegation of 7 to Swindon between 6th October and 11th October 2016. He spoke in detail about the planned programme of events and how this was the first time that a number of the delegation had visited England.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 14th December 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 5th October 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.

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: 14th December 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

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