

## **TOWN TWINNING NETWORK**

**WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2014**

**PRESENT:-** Eileen Mochan (Ocotal Link), Roger Gower (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Abdul Amin, Councillor Andrew Bennett, Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning) and Councillor Junab Ali

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Sarnowski, Hassan Nur, Mr Bruce Clarke, Mike Ide, John Mayell, Councillor Michael Bray, Derrick Gustafson and Councillor Toby Elliott

### **40. Appointment of Chair**

#### **Resolved:**

That Councillor Kevin Small be appointed Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

### **41. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

#### **Resolved:**

That Eileen Mochan be appointed Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

### **42. Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman reminded members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. There were no declarations.

### **43. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

### **44. Minutes**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **45. Town Twinning Network - Updates**

The Director of Law and Democratic Services gave an update on the following issues that were considered by the Town Twinning Network at its last meeting on 2 April 2014:

- Town Twinning Grant Applications consultation on whether the definition of 'Cultural Activities' should be included in the future assessment of Town Twinning Grants, copy of the definition attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

- Requests to Cabinet for Town Twinning activity and Swindon/Salzgitter 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations budgetary provision

The Network were informed that following the consultation with both Councillors and organisations connected to the network, the overwhelming majority who responded supported the use of the definition. In light of the outcome of the consultation the Chair suggested that the Network agree to include the definition in the future assessment of Town Twinning Grants.

The Network was also reminded that they had made two budgetary requests for consideration of Cabinet. The first request related to a 'one-off' budget of £10,000 to be administered by the Town Twinning Network to support Town Twinning Activities over the next 3-5 years. The second request related to a 'one-off' budget to support the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations during 2015 of the Swindon/Salzgitter Town Twinning Link. Both requests were scheduled for consideration by Cabinet on 25 June 2014.

#### **Resolved:**

1. That the results and outcomes of the Town Twinning Grant Applications consultation be noted.
2. That the Network endorse the definition of 'Cultural Activities', as detailed in Appendix A of these minutes for use in the consideration of Town Twinning Grant applications.
3. That consideration of the Networks budgetary requests by Cabinet at their meeting on 25 June 2014 be noted.
4. That the Cabinet decision from its meeting held on 25 June 2014 be circulated to the Network.

#### **46. 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**

Roger Gower reported on a number of recent events as detailed below:

- Five members of the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association had visited Salzgitter between 11<sup>th</sup>– 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Marion Jefferies spoke in detail about the visit and the importance of continuing the twinning link between Swindon and Salzgitter.
- The Association were starting to lay the foundations for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2015.

It was suggested that the Lord Lieutenant and High Sherriff be invited to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, especially when the Salzgitter Twinning Association visited Swindon.

**Swindon Ocotal Link**

Eileen Mochan reported that a number of successful fundraising events had taken place with a further event planned for 17 August 2014.

**Swindon Mauritius Friendship Link**

Nazma Ramruttun spoke about a number of successful events that the former and current Mayors of the Council attended. The Network was also informed of a need to heighten the awareness within the Council of the work undertaken between Swindon and the Mauritius Friendship Link. The Chair agreed that a briefing note about the work of the Town Twinning Network would be circulated to all Councillors.