

## **TOWN TWINNING NETWORK**

**WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2014**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Michael Bray, Councillor Abdul Amin, Councillor Toby Elliott, Councillor Andrew Bennett, Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning), Councillor Junab Ali and Cecilia Olley (Swindon Ocotal Link)

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Pearce, Mark Sarnowski, Hassan Nur, Roger Gower, Mike Ide and Cristina Bennett

### **53. 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.

### **54. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

### **55. Minutes**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **56. Swindon Salzgitter Twinning - 40th Anniversary Celebrations**

The Chair reported on (i) the recent Cabinet decision in relation to the funding of Council supported activities to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Swindon/Salzgitter Twinning; (ii) the recent Mayoral visit to Salzgitter and discussion between the civic leaders of Swindon and Salzgitter about the Anniversary celebrations; (iii) details of a civic Anniversary dinner and (iv) the establishment of a small working group to consider the detailed planning of the Council supported Anniversary activities.

The Chair explained that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 agreed, that further to Minute 51(3) of the Town Twinning Network, the Deputy Leader of the Council meet with the Chair of the Town Twinning Network and the relevant Council officers to consider the feasibility and financial implications of the Networks proposals.

The Chair suggested that a Working Group be set up to consider the detailed planning of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and asked for volunteers to serve on the Group.

#### **Resolved:**

1. That a Working Group be set up to consider the detailed planning of events to celebrate the Swindon Salzgitter 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

2. That the following representatives serve on the Working Group:
  - Kevin Small – Chair of Town Twinning Network
  - Andrew Bennett – Vice-Chair of Town Twinning Network and Deputy Mayor
  - Toby Elliott
  - Abdul Amin
  - Brian Mattock - Deputy Leader – as agreed by Cabinet
  - Roger Gower – Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
  - Cecilia Olley – Swindon Ocotal Link
  - Stephen Taylor, Director of Law and Democratic Services or his representative
3. That the first meeting of the Working Group be held at 5:00pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at the Civic Offices

## **57. 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**

A report by Roger Gower about the following events was circulated:

- At the SSTA AGM all officers were re-elected unopposed. Subscription fees remain unchanged. The proposed programme for the Salzgitter visit was discussed at length.
- The programme for the visit by the DEG – Salzgitter is being further developed.
- The dates for the visit have yet to be finalised but it will take place in June 2015.
- The SSTA web site is now live and can be accessed at the address [www.swindon-salzgitter-twinning.co.uk](http://www.swindon-salzgitter-twinning.co.uk).
- The German student here for a 3-month study period returned home in late October.
- On behalf of the SSTA, may I wish all members of the Town Twinning Network a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
- Contact has been made with Arkell's Brewery and the discussions were very helpful. Work is in hand on the agreed actions.

### **Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)**

Cecilia Olley reported on the following:

- A grant from the Swindon Ocotal Link for £3,500 had been sent to Ocotal for bursaries. The bursaries would be used to sponsor the education of a child

with \$100 covering the fees for one year

- A number of successful fund raising events were held.
- The Link's Treasurer had recently left
- The Link's AGM was held in November 2014
- Arrangements were being made for a curry night in January 2015

### **Swindon Mauritius Friendship Link**

Nazma Ramruttun reported on a trip she had made to Mauritius in September 2014 and spoke about the elections due in December 2014 and the election campaigning taking place. A further visit would be made in February 2015.