

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Thursday, 13 April 2017

Committee Room 2, 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)

Email: sfigini@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH
(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 14th December 2016.

5. Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association (Pages 7 - 10)

6. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 11 - 12)

Date of Despatch: 03 April 2017

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, 14 DECEMBER 2016

PRESENT:- Councillor Kevin Small (Chair), Councillor Junab Ali, Councillor Claire Ellis and Councillor Caryl Sydney-Smith

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Oliver Donachie and Derique Montaut, Cristina Bennett, Mike Ide, Hassan Nur, Cecilia Olley, Richard Pearce, Nazma Ramruttun and Mark Sarnowski.

11. 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.

12. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

13. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2016, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

14. 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.

There were no representatives from the Town Twinning Associations and Links present at the meeting and therefore no update reports were received.

The Chair highlighted a concern about the recent non-attendance of the Twinning Associations for Wroughton and Highworth. He asked if the Associations could be contacted to determine the reasons for their non-attendance and encourage them to attend future meetings.

The Chair referred to the closure of the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association earlier this year and asked for a report to a future meeting highlighting the difficulties they had experienced and whether there was any prospect that the Association might be re-established.

Resolved – (1) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services contact the Wroughton – St. Germain Les Corbeil Twinning Association and the Highworth Twinning Association to determine the reasons for their non-attendance at Town Twinning Network meetings and encourage them to attend future meetings.

(2) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services prepare a report on the difficulties experienced by the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association prior to its closure and on the prospects of the Association being re-established at some point in the future.

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Town Twinning Network

Date: 13th April 2017

Author:	Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the difficulties experienced by the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association prior to its closure and the prospects of the Association being re-established at some point in the future.

2. Recommendations

The Network is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the difficulties experienced by the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association prior to its closure.
- 2.2 Consider any action it wishes to take to maintain the current Swindon Salzgitter link.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association was established in 1975 with the aim of furthering and expanding the knowledge of culture, education, industrial and political interests between the twinned towns of Swindon and Salzgitter. The Association also facilitated exchange visits with members in Salzgitter each year, with visits alternating annually between the UK and Germany.
- 3.2 The Association regularly applied for and received grant funding to help with exchange visits. The most recent visit celebrated the Associations 40th twinning anniversary and was held in June 2015.
- 3.3 The Association regularly attended Network meetings, giving feedback on activities and events held in furtherance of its objectives (see 3.1 above). However, more recently, due to an aging membership, health issues and lack of finances, the UK members of the Association struggled to host and entertain their visitors from Salzgitter.
- 3.4 The Town Twinning Network was advised, at its meeting held on 16th December 2015, that the then, Chair and Secretary (Roger Gower) had stood down at the Association's Annual General Meeting held on 20th November 2015, due to health reasons. Nominations were subsequently received for the post of Treasurer but not for the Chair or Secretary's posts. This lack of interest from the remaining members of the Association led to their conclusion that the UK side of the Association was unable to proceed and, following discussions, a vote was

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stuart Figini, 01793 463612, sfigini@swindon.gov.uk.

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Town Twinning Network

Date: 13th April 2017

taken to close the Association in Swindon. The Association had an average of 12 members attending meetings regularly during its 40 years.

- 3.5 The Association was entirely made up of community volunteers who, like so many voluntary organisations, raised funds throughout the year to enable the Association to operate. The majority of members were seniors and The Association had been very aware that it needed to attract a younger membership if it was to remain viable. Unfortunately their attempts to do so proved to be unsuccessful.
- 3.6 The German side of the Association were also experiencing similar struggles with attracting new members. It was understood from Manfred Voss, Chair of the Association in Salzgitter that some of his members were also elderly and of, generally, poor health and therefore reduced numbers were interested in travelling to the UK over the years. They were also unable to host visitors from Swindon as in previous years.
- 3.7 In view of the issues referred to above, it is felt that, in order to re-establish the Association in the future, there would need to be an increased willingness of either former members or new community volunteers to commit time, energy and finances to re-engage and re-create links within the local community and also with the Association in Salzgitter. At this stage, there does not appear to be any obvious enthusiasm from former members to undertake this role.
- 3.8 The Town Twinning Network, is therefore asked whether it wishes to take any steps, with a view to the assistance and continuation of the Swindon Salzgitter link outside the current Civic links.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 To not take any action.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 This report has no financial or procurement implications.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been fully taken into account in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with convention rights

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Town Twinning Network

Date: 13th April 2017

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

5.3 None

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment is required.

Risk Management

5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage.

6. Consultees

6.1 The Section 151 Officer and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

7.1 The Minutes of previous meetings of the Committee.

8. Appendices

8.1 None.

This page is intentionally left blank

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 13th April 2017

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 14th December 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 Twin Towns 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: 13th April 2017

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 Head of Finance and Change (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.