

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 7 JUNE 2017

PRESENT:- Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Junab Ali, Councillor Mary Martin (Shaw), Councillor Nick Martin, Councillor Derique Montaut, Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link), Dave Richardson (Highworth Twinning Association) and Mark Sarnowski (Swindon Torun Link)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Claire Ellis, Hassan Nur, Cecilia Olley and Nazma Ramruttun

1. Appointment of Chair

Resolved: That Councillor Kevin Small be appointed as Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved: That Councillor Derique Montaut be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

3. 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.

4. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

5. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2017, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links

The Network considered and noted a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services of twinning activities undertaken by 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 Torun Link

Mr Sarnowski reported on the following activities of the Swindon Torun Link:

- the construction of a memorial, commissioned for Queens Park to commemorate the contribution of Polish people through the years towards the development and culture of Swindon, had now been given permission to

be built. He explained that various fundraising events would be held to fund the project.

- Polish Olympics being held in Torun, Poland between 29th July and 5th August 2017. The invitation to attend the sporting event is open to any Polish national not living in Poland. It was noted that Mr Sarnowski and three other Swindon residents would be attending the event.

Highworth Twinning Association

Mr Richardson reported on the following activities of the Highworth Twinning Association:

- Recent trip to Pontoson, Normandy, France and a return visit to Highworth by the friends from Pontoson, expected in early December 2017.
- Visit by the Association to Wassenberg, Germany in October 2017.
- How the Association functioned, membership numbers, age ranges and the importance of social media in the future development of Twinning Associations.

Swindon Octal Link (SOL)

Mrs Bennett reported on the following activities of SOL:

- The future development of SOL would be considered at the next SOL meeting on 4th July 2017. The Network was reminded that SOL is planning to amend its constitution to terminate its charitable status, due to issues around the administration required and, in particular, the time and effort in maintaining and developing a membership base.
- Recent visits to Swindon from the Octal Link and subsequent return visit from Swindon.

Swindon/Salzgitter Twinning (Civic Visit)

The Chair reported on the planned Civic Visit by the Mayor of Swindon and a delegation of members to Salzgitter between 11th – 16th August 2017. There was also a possibility of a Swindon skittles team visiting Salzgitter in December 2017.

The Chair explained that he was still considering ways in which the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association could be re-established.

General Twinning Links

The Network considered ways to raise the profile of Twinning and international links in Swindon and projects that all the Associations and Links could contribute towards. It was suggested that members of all the Associations and Links could participate in the following upcoming events:

- Refugee Week - 19th – 25th June, 2017

- Africa Community Day - 1st July 2017
- Swindon Literature Festival 2018.
- The promotion of international friendship and understanding through 'Host', which arranges for international students at British universities to meet and experience the British way of life in UK residents homes.

Resolved – (1) That the Activities of the Twinning Associations and Links be noted.

(2) That Swindon Literature Festival organisers be asked to consider the possibility of the Swindon Twinning Associations and Links being involved in the event being held in 2018 in some capacity.