

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 4 October 2017

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Claire Ellis
Mary Martin
Nick Martin

Labour Councillors

Junab Ali
Derique Montaut
(Vice-Chair)
Kevin Small (Chair)

Cristina Bennett, Swindon Ocotal Link
Hassan Nur, Salahley, Somalialand
Cecilia Olley, Swindon Ocotal Link
Nazma Ramruttun, Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning
Dave Richardson, Highworth Twinning Association
Mark Sarnowski, Swindon Torun Link

Committee Officer: Stuart Figini (Committee Officer) 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 - 8)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2017.

5. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 9 - 10)

Date of Despatch: 22 September 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://www5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sched=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, 7 JUNE 2017

PRESENT:- Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Junab Ali, Councillor Mary Martin, 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

20. Appointment of Chair

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

21. Appointment of Vice-Chair

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

22. 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.

23. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

24. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2017, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

25. 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 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 Ocotal 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 were reminded that SOL is planning to amend its constitution to terminate its charitable status, due to the administration required, and the time and effort in maintaining a membership base.
- Recent visits to Swindon from the Octotal 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 Link 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.

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Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 4th October 2017

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Wards: 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 7th June 2017:-

- 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.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 There are no alternative options.

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: 4th October 2017

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.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 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

- 5.5 A risk assessment has not been undertaken.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (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