

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 13 December 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 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2017.

5. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 7 - 8)

Date of Despatch: 01 December 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?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, 4 OCTOBER 2017

PRESENT:- Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Junab Ali, Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning) and Mark Sarnowski (Swindon Torun Link)

7. 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.

8. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

9. Minutes

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

10. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links

The Network received a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services inviting the representatives of the Town Twinning Associations and Links present at the meeting to provide updates on twinning activities undertaken since the last meeting.

Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning

Nazma Ramruttun, Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning, commented on her frustration at the lack of any significant progress in formalising either a twinning or friendship agreement between Swindon and Mauritius. She advised that during the course of her visit to Mauritius in October of last year, she had discussed the matter with her contact and that the preference would be for a full twinning arrangement. Ms Ramruttun also commented on the possibility that a visit to Mauritius might be arranged for next year.

The Chair advised that he had spoken to the Leader and that, at least at present, anything more than a friendship agreement seemed unlikely. He recognised that it might be ideal if the signing of an agreement could be endorsed as part of a civic visit and agreed to broach the subject with the Leader once again, to try and get a definitive position statement for the network at its next meeting.

On behalf of the Network, the Chair wished Ms Ramruttun well with her pending hospital stay and wished her a successful outcome.

Swindon Torun Link

Mr Sarnowski, representing the Swindon Torun Link, reported that he and several

other members of the Link had recently visited Torun to attend the “Polish Olympics” event held in the city. He advised that this was the 18th occasion this event, open to any Polish national not living in Poland, had been held since before the Second World War. Mr Sarnowski, commented on the success of the event and on the various innovative events staged in the city, during the time of the visit and throughout the year, to promote its cultural and sporting diversity as well as the importance it places on its international links.

In response to a query by Councillor Ali, Mr Sarnowski commented on the frequency of visits by the Link to Torun and the opportunity for delegates from the Council to be included in any future visits.

Swindon/Salzgitter Twinning

The Chair reported on the recent and very successful civic visit to Salzgitter, which had also included visits to Berlin and Hanover. He briefly commented on some of the highlights of the visit, including the opportunity to view a hydrogen driven train in development in Berlin and a pre-school facility in Salzgitter as well as the opportunity afforded to him to referee an Oberburgermeisters football match, which event had been reported upon in the local press.

In response to a question, the Chair briefly commented on the role of the Mayor of Salzgitter which, he advised, was an elected position, similar to the Mayor of London, and that the appointment was, currently, for a period of five years. He commented that Swindon had considered the possibility of introducing an elected Mayor some years ago but had determined not to pursue that option.

Resolved – That the Activities of the Twinning Associations and Links, as reported above, be noted.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 13th December 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 4th October 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: 13th December 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