

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 25 April 2018

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: Iain Tucker (Telephone 01793 463605)

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(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 13th December 2017

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

Date of Despatch: 18 April 2018

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, 13 DECEMBER 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors Mary Martin (Chair for the meeting) and Junab Ali and Mrs Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Claire Ellis, Nick Martin, Derique Montaut (Vice-Chair) and Kevin Small (Chair) and from Hassan Nur, Cecilia Olley, Nazma Ramruttun and Mark Sarnowski

11. Appointment of Chair

Resolved - That, in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor Mary Martin be appointed as Chair for this meeting of the Town Twinning Network.

12. 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.

13. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

14. Minutes

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

15. 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 Ocotal Link (SOL)

Mrs Bennett, representing SOL, reported that SOL at its last meeting had amended its constitution to terminate its charitable status, due to the administration required, and the time and effort in maintaining a membership base. The remaining SOL budget had been distributed as bursaries by the Links contact within Ocotal.

The Network noted that the Link had also changed its name to Swindon Ocotal Link Association.

Mrs Bennett explained that relationships with friends in Ocotal remained strong and the Link found that this had been enhanced by using WhatsApp to communicate between the groups.

General Twinning Links

The Network considered ways in which it could be modernised and also the future development of a statement about the role and benefits of a friendship link. Suggestions included a possible name change of the Network, linking to the Swindon City of Sanctuary and developing informal friendship links with the numerous communities in Swindon.

Resolved: (1) That the Network, at its next meeting, consider the development of a statement about the role and benefits of a friendship link.
(2) That a representative from the Swindon City of Sanctuary be invited to the next meeting of the Network to explain how the organisation promote a culture of welcome, inclusion and support for everyone in Swindon.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 25th April 2018

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 13th December 2017:-

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link
- Chattanooga, USA
- 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 Town Twins 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 Iain Tucker, Direct Dial 463605, itucker@swindon.gov.uk.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 25th April 2018

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 Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (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 Iain Tucker, Direct Dial 463605, itucker@swindon.gov.uk.