

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 3 April 2019

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Claire Ellis
Nick Martin
Kevin Parry

Labour Councillors

Kevin Small (Chair)
Imtiyaz Shaikh

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: Shaun Banks (Telephone 07980 752047)

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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 3rd October 2018.

5. Swindon City of Sanctuary Update (Oral)

6. Town Twinning Future/Friendship Link Agreements (Oral)

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

Date of Despatch: 26 March 2019

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.

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TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2018

PRESENT:- Cecilia Olley (Swindon Ocotal Link) in the Chair; Councillor Junab Ali, Councillor Nick Martin, Councillor Kevin Parry, Councillor Imtiyaz Shaikh, Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link), Hassan Nur (Salahley, Somalialand), Cecilia Olley (Swindon Ocotal Link) and Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kevin Small and Councillor Claire Ellis

9. 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.

10. Public Question Time

The Network received a request seeking Council support and a letter of introduction from the Mayor and support from the Network in respect of a potential friendship link between Swindon and a Nepalese town.

The Chair indicated that the network would need to establish a process for establishing friendship link that it supported. The Chair requested further information including details of the Group's Membership, Committee, Constitution and objectives. Following the receipt of this information a report could be prepared and submitted to the Network for consideration.

11. Swindon City of Sanctuary - Update

The Forum was updated on work related to the City of Sanctuary Since the last meeting of the Network which included:

- A presentation by the City of Sanctuary and a discussion on changing the emphasis and focus of Town Twinning to incorporate and represent communities in Swindon.
- That Swindon City of Sanctuary was part of a national organisation and because Swindon was a dispersal town for asylum seekers and refugees it was a way of ensuring everyone felt included within a safe and welcoming community.
- A break-down of work with other organisations and schools.
- The potential for involving more Councillors in the work of the Swindon City of Sanctuary and their role in explaining the way the Government operates the asylum system.
- The rich cultural community within Swindon.

Resolved - That the update be noted.

12. Town Twinning Future - Update

There was no update to report.

13. 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.

It was noted that The Worshipful the Mayor and Councillor Kevin Small had travelled to Salzgitter in September where Councillor Kevin Small had been awarded the “City of Salzgitter Gold Medal of Honour” in recognition of his work on town twinning on 23rd September 2108 at special awards evening.

Swindon Ocotal Association were considering new projects such as linking entrepreneurs of the two towns. It was noted that the Association no longer had charitable status. The Link offered the opportunity for Councillors to become more active with the group and highlight recent work and issues facing Ocotal.

The Swindon Mauritius Friendship Link was still awaiting progress on being formally recognised and was invited to submit supporting information to enable this matter to be progressed.

Resolved – (1) The report be noted.

(2) That the Network’s congratulations to Councillor Kevin Small on the receipt of the City of Salzgitter Gold Medal of Honour be recorded.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 3rd April 2019

Author: Interim of Law

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 3rd October 2018:-

- 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 Shaun Banks (07980752047), sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 3rd April 2019

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 Interim Director of Law (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None