

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 12 June 2019

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Brian Mattock
Kevin Parry
(Ex-Officio)
Maureen Penny
Rahul Tarar

Labour Councillors

Kevin Small (Chair)
Junab Ali
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 March 2019.

5. Swindon City of Sanctuary Update

6. Friendship Links

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

Date of Despatch: 12 June 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 APRIL 2019

PRESENT:- Councillors Kevin Small (Chair) Junab Ali and Kevin Parry.

David Bell, Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link), Hassan Nur (Salahley, Somalialand), (Swindon Ocotal Link) and Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning)

Apologies for absence were received from Cecilia Olley and Ken Kimber.

14. 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.

15. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

16. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2018, be accepted as a correct record.

17. 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:

- The hosting scheme for people who were destitute or about to become destitute.
- A break-down of work with local companies and schools.
- Work to update the City of Sanctuary Website which included a “20 welcomes film”.
- The Opening Night at the No1 Coffee Shop in the town centre, held on every Thursday between 6:30pm and 8:30pm, which offered the opportunity to meet and interact with sanctuary seekers, volunteers and supporters.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

18. Town Twinning Future/Friendship Link Agreements

The Forum received an update in respect of a request relating to the creation of friendship arrangements between Swindon and Madhyapur Thimi and anticipated work with their school and hospital and to create a friendship link to facilitate a group visit to Swindon as well as a group from Swindon visiting Madhyapur Thimi. The friendship group had held a charity event on 20th April to raise funds for the town and friendship group. The Worshipful The Mayor reported that he had met the Nepalese Ambassador and Nepalese community. The Network supported a friendship link whilst noting that this did not require any funding or officer support.

The Chair would write a letter to the Mayor of Madhyapur Thimi setting out the Forum's support for a friendship link and desire for closer links between the two communities.

The Forum also received an update in respect of the request for a friendship link with Mauritius and a visit by representatives of the local community to Mauritius in November and a forthcoming visit at the end of April. The Network supported a friendship link whilst noting that this did not require any funding or officer support. The Chair would write a letter to the Mayor of Mauritius setting out the Forum's support for a friendship link and desire for closer links between the two communities.

Resolved – The update and presentations by the Madhyapur Thimi and Mauritius Friendship Groups were noted.

19. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links

The Network received a report of the Interim Director of Law 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.

Hassan Nur (Salahley, Somalialand) updated the Network on discussions with representatives in Salahley to formalise the friendship links between Salahley, Somalialand and Swindon.

The Network discussed the benefits of including a paragraph from each organisation within the paperwork for future meetings.

The Network noted with sadness the recent death of Rita Heyes, one of the founder members of the Swindon/Ocotol Link Association. The Network noted that there might be an opportunity to formally remember her via naming a street, building or allotment site in her memory in Covingham the area in which she lived. Details would be sent to the Clerk and, in consultation with the Parish Council and Ward Councillors, consideration would be given to an appropriate form of memorial. The Association had recently revised its charitable status to facilitate a change in the way it undertook its work.

The Chair updated the Network in respect of communications from Salzgitter following the news of the proposed closure of the Honda site in Swindon. The Mayor would lead a delegation to visit Salzgitter in May.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

12th June 2019

Author: Head of Legal Services

Ward: 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 April 2019:-
- 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

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

All Other Implications (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 carried out.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on 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 Shaun Banks (0980752047) or sbanks@swindon.gov.uk