

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 2 October 2019

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Brian Mattock
Kevin Parry
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
Dr Christine Tipper, Madhyapurthimi Friendship Group
Nazma Ramruttun, Swindon – Mauritius Friendship Twinning

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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 12th June 2019.

5. City of Sanctuary Update

6. Friendship Links

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

Date of Despatch: 30 September 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, 12 JUNE 2019

PRESENT:- Councillors Kevin Small (Chair) Junab Ali, Brian Mattock, Kevin Parry and Imtiyaz Shaikh.

Christina Tripper (Swindon Madhyapur Thimi Friendship Group) and Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning).

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Rahul Tarar.

1. Appointment of Chair

Resolved – That Councillor Kevin Small be Chair of the Network for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

(Councillor Small took the Chair.)

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved – That Christine Bennett be Vice-Chair of the Network for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

3. 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.

4. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

5. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2019, be accepted as a correct record.

6. Swindon City of Sanctuary Update

The Network noted an update would be provided at its next meeting.

7. Friendship Links

The Chair reported that letters had been sent to the Mayors of Mauritius and Madhyapur Thimi regarding friendship arrangements and the creation of friendship links. These letters had been signed by Councillor Junab Ali as Mayor of the Borough of Swindon and Councillor Kevin Small as Chair of the Network and were tabled for Members' information.

Councillor Ali noted that following the receipt of a gift from the Mayor Madhyapur

Thimi he had forwarded gifts to the Mayor through Swindon Madhyapur Thimi Friendship Group who were visiting the town.

Nazma Ramruttun noted her disappointment that the letter had not been presented to her to her to give to the Mayor of Mauritius during her recent visit there as it had taken ten years to complete the process of approving a friendship link. The Chair explained the process for sending these letters on behalf of the network.

8. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links

The Forum noted that a delegation from Swindon had been invited to the Embassy of Nepal and had attended the official welcoming reception for the Prime Minister of Nepal who was visiting the United Kingdom. Representatives had also attended a conference at the Embassy four weeks previously. It was noted that the Nepalese Ambassador was supportive of the Swindon Madhyapur Thimi Friendship Group's work. The launch party for the Madhyapur Thimi Friendship Group was been attended by approximately 100 people. Work was progressing with possible links between schools of the two towns and a Spanish School which might offer the opportunity for external funding. The Swindon Madhyapur Thimi Friendship Group now had a Committee, constitution and membership forms and it was hoped to arrange for a visit from Nepalese officials with visits to look Swindon's historical background and educational facilities.

The Network received an update on the recent visit to Mauritius by Nazma Ramruttun and her meetings with officials there. She noted that at the time of her visit the friendship letter had not been received and that the Mayor was unsure what was happening with regard to the friendship link. She was due to visit Mauritius again on latter in the month when it was hoped the friendship link would be progressed.

The Worshipful The Mayor reported on the recent civic visit to Salzgitter and activities, including to a factory, undertaken in a very constructive and positive visit. Work was progressing in respect of expanding football and school links between the two towns. Councillor Brian Mattock noted that he and the Mayoress had been exploring the possibility of links between the Fire Authorities of the two towns as well as wider public engagement.

Resolved – The updates and presentations be noted.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

2nd October 2019

Author: Chief Legal Officer

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 12th June 2019:-

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link
- Chattanooga, USA
- Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
- Highworth Twinning Association
- Swindon – Madhyapurthimi Friendship Group
- Swindon – Mauritius Friendship Twinning
- 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 Chief Legal Officer (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 on (07980752047) or sbanks@swindon.gov.uk