

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

THURSDAY, 29 JULY 2004

PRESENT:- Mr Reg Clarke (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mr David Cox (Chair of Town Twinning Network), Mr Phil Eagle (Haydon Wick Link), Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer), Councillor Doreen Dart, Councillor Stan Pajak and Councillor Chris Van Roon

Adam Whatley (Penhill Youth Sports Co-Ordinator), Holly Baker (Penhill Youth International Exchanges Worker) and Harry Bromley (Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal and Old Town Traders) were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr David Martin, Councillor Michael Dickinson and Councillor Philip Steele

84. Minutes

Resolved – That, subject to the amendment of Minute 78 in the last paragraph which should read Hreod Parkway School instead of Headlands School, the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2004, be confirmed.

85. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

86. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in Item 11 of the Notice of the Meeting on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 5 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

87. Update on Conference Programme for 2004

Reg Clarke reported on the progress that had been made in relation to the International Festival for 2004. A draft programme had been prepared and the following events were in the process of being finalised:

- Opening event – dinner at STEAM (30/9)
- International Links exhibition (1/10 – 24/10)
- Conference (Growth and Participation) (1/10)
- Social Evening (1/10)
- International Market (7/10 – 9/10)

The main events were to take place in the STEAM museum where advertisements had already been placed in order to promote the event. Discussions were currently underway with regards to the exhibition layout and 42 pictures had been brought back from a recent trip to Salzgitter that would be used as part of the display. Councillor Dart requested that the draft programme be

distributed to all members of the Network, including appropriate officers, along with information on the number of people who will be attending the conference. Daryl Jones, European Officer, also advised the Network that it may be possible to put in a late application to the Swindon Youth Partnership and that an application should be submitted as soon as possible so that he could progress it. Mr Jones also reported that a European grant had been applied for and the outcome of this application would be known in August.

Reg Clarke also asked for approval, in principle, for a grant towards a football tournament for girls under 14 as part of the International Festival. The Network confirmed that it would consider a grant application at the next meeting.

Resolved – That (1) Reg Clarke circulate the draft programme and information on the numbers attending the conference to all members of the Network and appropriate officers; (2) the Salzgitter Twinning Association submit an application to Daryl Jones as soon as possible in respect of a grant from the Swindon Youth Partnership; (3) Daryl Jones submit an article about the International Festival into the Members Bulletin; (4) Daryl Jones contact the Chief Executive about including this event in his weekly bulletin to staff; and (5) that an application be submitted to the next meeting of the Network for a grant towards a football tournament for girls under 14 as part of the International Festival.

88. Report from Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Reg Clarke reported that 23 people had recently visited Salzgitter and that the hosts had provided an excellent programme of activities for them. A reporter from the Evening Advertiser had accompanied the group on this trip and a lot of good publicity had been generated as a result. Mr Clarke emphasised that this trip was totally self-financing. He also requested a video to made available at the next meeting so that members of the Network were able to view the Salzgitter video.

89. Report from Swindon Ocotal Link

Bruce Clarke updated the Network on the following initiatives from the Swindon Ocotal Link:

- 40 Venture Scouts currently in Ocotal
- Study tour planned for November 2004 – 9 people are already booked on this but would really like to have between 12 – 14 people. The Chair suggested that this be put in the Members Bulletin.
- Fair Trade Coalition
- Teacher exchange programme with Hreod Parkway School – currently working on this
- Web Site about to go live
- Funding grant approved for this year and a Service Level Agreement (SLA) prepared to show how the money will be used
- 7 young people from Salzgitter had also visited Ocotal recently.

90. Report from Swindon Torun Link

Councillor Pajak reported on the following initiatives from the Swindon Torun Link:

- Swindon hosted the Torun Youth ice Hockey Team prior to their attending the Oxford International Celebration of Sport
- Trainees from Torun Electrical Company to work at Swindon RWE Innogy Company
- Penhill Youth Club took part in a canoe event on the river Drweca in Torun – a full report will be prepared for the next meeting of the Network
- International Challenge Day 26th May
- Mateusz Polasek won a trip to Swindon as part of an English Dictation competition run by the Polish British Foundation
- Hoping to have former European and World Champion Sebastian Chmara from Torun take part in the Swindon half marathon.

91. Report from La Garenne Link

Phil Eagle had met colleagues in La Garenne recently and concluded that the best way forward would be to establish links between schools. Schools in Haydon Wick had designed a tapestry incorporating Twinning ideas and he had taken this with him to La Garenne.

Daryl Jones confirmed that there is funding available in order to develop links between schools.

92. Update on Council Twinning Projects

Daryl Jones explained that he had secured European funding for work experience projects with Torun and Salzgitter and that he helps young people looking for work experience to access grants and puts them in touch with Companies offering placements.

Reg Clarke requested information as to why a conference for Youth Officers had been cancelled and asked what had happened to the £7K that had been obtained from the British Council for this event. Daryl Jones explained that, as the event was cancelled, the money had not actually come in to Swindon Borough Council.

Resolved – that Councillor Dart would investigate why the event had been cancelled and would report back to the next meeting of the Network.

93. Grant Application - Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association (Pages 5 - 7)

Resolved - that the Town Twinning Network recommends that a grant of £1,000 be approved for the Twinning Conference as part of the International Festival 2004.

94. Any Other Business

The Chair suggested that Twinning teams participate in the Swindon half marathon in October to which the Network agreed.

Resolved – (1) that letters be sent to all Twin Towns and Links suggesting their participation in the Swindon half marathon; and (2) that Daryl Jones seek support from officers who may wish to participate in the half marathon as part of an International/Twinning team.

