

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

THURSDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2004

PRESENT:- Councillor Doreen Dart in the Chair; Councillors Michael Dickinson, Stan Pajak and Derique Montaut; Mr Reg Clarke (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer), Councillor Doreen Dart, Councillor Michael Dickinson, Councillor Stan Pajak, Councillor Derique Montaut and Karen Mayell (Swindon Ocotal Link), Adam Whatley (Penhill Youth Sports Co-Ordinator), Mr Arkadiusz Bystrzycki (Torun visitor) and Mrs Ilse Voss (Salzgitter).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr David Cox, Mr Phil Eagle, Councillor Philip Steele, Councillor Chris Van Roon and Samantha Jackson

95. Minutes

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th July, 2004, be confirmed.

Matters Arising

Minute 87 – Reg Clarke informed the Network that he had sent out notification of the conference to all Senior Managers within the Council but had not yet received any feedback.

Minute 92 – Councillor Dart confirmed that the conference for Youth Officers had not taken place and therefore the £7K grant from the British Council had not been received by the Council.

96. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

97. Update on Conference Programme for 2004

Reg Clarke informed the Network of those visitors who had confirmed that they would be attending the conference. Bruce Clarke confirmed that Lester Figueroa will be attending from Ocotal and that the Twins of the Twins had been informed of the event but that he did not expect them to attend. Bruce added that he had contacted the Manager of the Tourist Information Centre in Swindon who has offered a placement for Lester during his visit and that he had also invited them to attend the conference. Daryl Jones will contact the promotion department in Torun Council to let them know about the event and will keep Councillor Pajak informed of the outcome. Daryl and Bruce will also contact other appropriate Officers, including the Chief Executive, within the Council to ensure that they are aware of and receive invitations to the conference.

Reg added that the tickets for the meal were now on sale and that the venue and menu had been agreed. A grant application for £12K from Europe had been

successful and the criteria for this grant states that this money can only be spent on travel and accommodation for visitors.

Councillor Montaut suggested that, during the conference, all the participating Links and Twins should be given the opportunity to sign up to a charter which would encourage further partnerships and joint working to develop.

Resolved – (1) That Reg Clarke ask David Martin if it is possible to include an item on the agenda for the conference at which all Twins and Links could sign a Charter to promote further partnerships; and (2) that David Martin be approached regarding the possibility of representatives from the other Links and Twin Towns speaking at the conference and where this would most appropriately fit in with the event.

98. Report from Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

See above item.

99. Report from Swindon Ocotal Link

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

- 40 Venture Scouts had now returned from Ocotal and had had a very successful trip. Other Scout groups would now be approached to undertake similar visits.
- 6 people are now scheduled to visit Ocotal in November with another 2 people as possibilities. It is hoped that this will be an annual event.
- One representative from Ocotal will be running in the Swindon half marathon.

100. Report from Swindon Torun Link

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

- Possible that 2 runners from Torun will be participating in the Swindon half marathon in October.
- The recent visit by the Ice Hockey Team from Torun was featured in Swindon News.

101. Report from La Garenne Link

There was no report available.

102. Update on Council Twinning Projects

Daryl Jones confirmed that money had now been secured from the training bridge programme for work experience exchanges with Salzgitter.

Adam Whatley (Penhill Youth Sports Co-Ordinator) reported that he had arranged a short stay visit in Portugal with the possibility of arranging future sporting exchanges. He also agreed that Lester Figueroa could spend some time with the youth club during his visit.

103.

Any Other Business

Councillor Dickinson reported that he is undertaking a scrutiny review of International links and Twinning, as requested by the Corporate Performance Commission, and would welcome any views from members of the Network.

Daryl Jones has secured funding to enable 10 teachers to visit Dominica under the theme of Fair Trade. Bruce Clarke is hoping to organise a similar trip to Nicaragua.

Reg Clarke tabled a Town Twinning Grant application requesting £1000 for an under 14 girls soccer tournament as part of the International Festival.

Resolved – That, subject to (i) the tournament being open to all under 14 girls football teams in Swindon and (ii) the tournament being an International event, the Town Twinning Network recommends that a grant of £1000 be approved for the under 14 girls soccer tournament as part of the International Festival.

104.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Twinning Network will be held on 25th November, 2004 at 6pm.