

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2005

PRESENT:- Councillors Derique Montaut (Chair), Doreen Dart, Stan Pajak and Philip Steele; Philip Young (Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Mr Reg Clarke and Peter Mallinson (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mr Phil Eagle (La Garenne Link), Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer), Mike Ide (Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association) and Mr D Worsnip (Highworth - Pontorson Twinning Association)

Apologies for absence were received from Karen Mayell, Mrs S Whittington and Councillor Michael Dickinson

7. Minutes

Resolved – That, subject to the inclusion of Peter Mallinson in the attendance list, the minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2004 be confirmed.

8. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

9. Reports from Swindon Town Twinning Associations and Links

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Bruce Clarke updated the Network on the activities of the Swindon Ocotal Link, which included the following:

- Visit from the Venture Scouts to Ocotal during July 2004.
- Participation in the Twinning Conference in October 2004.
- Hosted a guest from Guatemala who spoke at the Agenda 21 Hospitality conference. Worked together with Agenda 21 and the Fair Trade Coalition on a grant application to promote a coffee project which was unsuccessful.
- Successful visit by Lester Figueroa – SOL expresses its thanks to the New College
- Receipt of a grant of £750 from the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign for Primary Health Care work in Ocotal.
- \$9,000 donated this year to Ocotal, including donations from SOL members.
- Visit by 7 people who had not visited Ocotal before – each made a donation of \$200 to projects in Ocotal.
- SOL now has a web site – Swindonocotal-link.org
- School twinning is being discussed with Greendown and Hreod Parkway.

Bruce added that as the Head of Ofsted had stated that Citizenship was one of the worst taught subjects in schools, Twinning could be used as a means to get this message across. The Chair suggested that Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer) contact the Director of Education to find out which schools

were currently involved in Twinning activities.

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Reg Clarke again reported on the success of the recent Swindon International Festival and Conference and circulated a copy of the Swindon Festival 2004 Budget for information.

Swindon Torun Link

Councillor Stan Pajak updated the Network about a trip to Torun by a junior ice hockey team to take place from 17th – 21st March 2005. Places on the coach and at the hotel were still available for anyone wishing to visit Torun for the weekend with accommodation costing about £15 per night for full board.

Wroughton – St Germaine les Corbeil Twinning Association

Mike Ide informed the Network that 30 people had recently visited Wroughton including the Mayor of St Germaine les Corbeil, with accommodation being provided by families. The visit had included a trip to Longleat, a walk around Wroughton, a visit to the Cenotaph followed by a visit to the Mayor's parlour.

Mike also informed the Network that the new E111's were now available and that the old ones had expired on December 31st 2004.

La Garenne Link

Phil Eagle reported that he was still looking at ways of sending the display depicting the Twinning Link by schools in Haydon Wick over to France – any ideas would be welcome.

Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association

Dr Worsnip informed the Network that local families provide any accommodation for visitors and that a billeting officer keeps a record of these. There will be a visit in May from Pontorson and the theme for the visit will be based around the history of Highworth in relation to the railways, including a weekend of talks and a visit to the Steam Museum. Dr Worsnip stated that he was investigating the possibility of translating information from the Steam Museum and from 4 Country Parks (Coate, Stanton, Barbury and Lydiard) into French. Daryl Jones confirmed that he would be able to assist with this translation.

10. Update on Swindon Borough Council Twinning Projects

The Chair reported that he was keen to review the terms of reference for the Town Twinning Network and that Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer) would be preparing a draft report to bring to the next meeting of the Network outlining the overall objectives and role of the Town Twinning Network and highlighting those areas where the Council can assist in achieving these objectives, in particular identifying the differences between official/Civic Twinning and Community led Twinning activities. The Chair also suggested that further work could be undertaken with the Chamber of Commerce in developing the economic development side of Town Twinning activities.

The Chair updated the Network on the available budget for Town Twinning grants and stated that the Network needed to think of ways of utilising this money more effectively in the future.

Reg Clarke reported that he had contacted the Leader of the Council and had asked a question at full Council regarding what the Council was intending to do for the 30 year anniversary of the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association and that he was still awaiting a reply. Issues may be raised during the visit to Salzgitter particularly in regard to Education and Youth Exchanges and it was suggested that it may be useful for Reg to meet with Education Officers in order to discuss this. The Chair also suggested that issues such as training opportunities, apprenticeships and business development should be raised during the Salzgitter visit. Daryl Jones added that three young trainees from Swindon Borough Council would be visiting Salzgitter during April 2005.

Bruce Clarke added that he would welcome a review of the Network and that each Twinning and Link has to take a lead in taking Twinning activities forward.

11. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Town Twinning Network will be held on Tuesday, 22nd March 2005.