

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Tuesday, 18 January 2005

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Swindon (Anticipated meeting room)

At 6.00 p.m.

**Conservative
Councillors**

Doreen Dart
Michael Dickinson
Chris Van Roon

**Labour
Councillors**

Philip Steele
Derique Montaut

**Liberal Democrat
Councillors**

Stan Pajak

Karen Mayell, Swindon Ocotal Link

Philip Young, Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr Reg Clarke, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Mr David Martin, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Mr Bruce Clarke, Swindon Ocotal Link

Mr David Cox, Chair of Town Twinning Network

Mr Phil Eagle, La Garenne Link

Mrs S Whittington, Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association

Mr D Ainscough, Lydiards - Tessy sur Vire Twinning Association

Mr Ken Miles-Croft, Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association

Daryl Jones, Senior Economic Development Officer

Committee Officer: Alison Smith (Telephone 01793 463612)

Email: alsmith@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 463000)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November, 2004.

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. Reports from Swindon Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 5 - 6)

5. Update on Swindon Borough Council Twinning Projects (Pages 7 - 8)

6. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 22nd March 2005.

Date of Despatch: 10 January 2005

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Corporate Governance is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

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

THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2004

PRESENT:- Councillors Doreen Dart, Derique Montaut, Stan Pajak and Philip Steele; Peter Cejer (Swindon Torun Link), Dr Worsnip (Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association), Karen Mayell (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mr Reg Clarke (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer), Gareth Jenkins (Swindon Male Voice Choir), Claudia Hackbarth, Janet Oehme and Daniel Grams (Salzgitter students)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Dickinson and Chris Van Roon; Samantha Jackson, Mr Bruce Clarke, Mr Phil Eagle, Mrs S Whittington, Councillor Michael Dickinson and Councillor Chris Van Roon

1. Appointment of Chair

Resolved – That Councillor Derique Montaut be Chair of the Town Twinning Network until November 2005.

(Councillor Derique Montaut took the Chair)

2. Appointment of Vice - Chair

Resolved – That Councillor Philip Steele be Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network until November 2005.

3. Minutes

Resolved – That, subject to the inclusion of Peter Mallinson in the attendance list, the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September, 2004, be confirmed.

4. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

5. Reports from Swindon Town Twinning Associations and Links

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Reg Clarke reported on the success of the recent Swindon International Festival and Conference and added that a letter of thanks had been sent to all those organisations that had provided sponsorship for the event. All Twinning Associations and Links would be notified of any future event well in advance to give them the opportunity to organise a visit and to undertake fundraising to enable the visit to take place. It was also agreed that publicity from any Town Twinning or Link activity would be distributed to all local Twinning Associations and Links to ensure that everyone was aware of what was happening. With regard to the budget, Mr Clarke asked that any outstanding costs should be forwarded to David Martin who was still in the process of finalising this budget. The football tournament had not taken place and the £1000 grant for this event, as approved by the Network, would be returned to Swindon Borough Council.

Some discussion took place around the chairing of the conference and it was agreed that Councillor Montaut, as Chair of the Town Twinning Network, would deal with this issue outside of this meeting.

Mr Clarke also informed the Network that the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association would be having their 30 years celebration next year and that official civic visits would be taking place some time during the year.

Swindon Ocotol Link (SOL)

Karen Mayell updated the Network on the activities of the Swindon Ocotol Link. It was felt that the conference had been very successful and SOL recommended that this be made an annual event under the name of The Town Twinning Network. Members of the Network agreed that this should be an annual event but that, due to the amount of work involved, the event should be organised and hosted by the different countries, on a round robin basis.

Ms Mayell reported that Lesther had had a tremendous stay in Swindon and was currently on his way home. Links had been established between Hreod Parkway and Greendown Schools with a school in Ocotol and New College and Swindon College had offered free learning in English Language and Tourism. \$8500 had been raised to take back to Ocotol for specific purposes.

Seven people were due to visit Ocotol at the end of November for two weeks and for six of these people it will be their first visit to Central America.

Swindon Torun Link

Councillor Stan Pajak updated members of the Network with the activities of Swindon Torun Link, which included:

- Employees from Torun Electricity Company working at Swindon RWE Innogy Company and Tyco Ltd
- Swindon Youth Ice Hockey Team planning to take part in an ice hockey tournament in Torun during March 2005. Peter Cejer added that this is also an opportunity for people wishing to visit Torun to share transport and keep the costs down. He had also invited the Torun team to participate in a tournament during the May Bank Holiday and would be seeking help and support, especially with accommodation, again to keep the costs down.
- Possibility of EU supported “family exchange” for a visit in the Summer via europa funding.
- Road naming possibility in the Northern Sector – names associated with Torun.
- Speedway match between Swindon and Torun – legs in both cities.
- Torun photographer, Marek Czarnecki, is hoping to market “Swindon Panoramas” by late Summer 2005.

La Garenne Link

The Haydon Wick Twinning Committee agreed to the following actions at their last meeting:

- Invite each of the 5 primary schools in Haydon Wick to start an e-mail link with a nominated school in La Garenne.
- For sometime, a group of mature students have used the Community Centre at Haydon Wick for French language lessons. They are to be

encouraged to link with a similar adult English language group in La Garenne.

- The exhibition of work carried out by the schools in Haydon Wick depicting the Twinning link and presently on display in North Swindon library will shortly close and ways are being sought to send one of the exhibits to La Garenne. Estimates of costs are proving to be prohibitive and ideas are sought.

6. Update on Swindon Borough Council Twinning Projects

Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer) outlined some of the Twinning projects that Swindon Borough Council had been involved in, including:

- A number of students and individuals were currently visiting Swindon from both Torun and Salzgitter. Each of the three students from Salzgitter gave a short informative presentation on their stay in Swindon. The Chair welcomed them to Swindon and commented on how good their spoken English was.
- The Mayor had received two invitations – one for a Council football team to participate in a football tournament in Salzgitter and one for Education Officers to visit Imatra in December. Unfortunately, no one was available from the Education Department for this visit. The Chair agreed to write to Directors expressing the concern of the Network on the lack of support from Directors in taking Twinning projects forward.
- Development of school links – please let Daryl know of any potential links by beginning of February 2005.
- The Swindon Male Voice Choir will be visiting the States next year to do some fundraising concerts for the Independence Day celebrations. Fundraising has already been undertaken but any help or ideas would be gratefully received.

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To: The Chair and Members of
the Town Twinning Network

Date: 18th January, 2005

By: Director of Law and Corporate
Governance

Parish/Ward: All

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

1 Purpose

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 of 25th November 2004:

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link
- La Garenne Link

2 Recommendations

2.1 That members of the Town Twinning Network note the activities of the Twinning Associations and Links.

3 Financial and Procurement Implications

3.1 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.

4 Social, Environmental, Staffing, Legal/Human Rights, Risk and Other Implications

- 4.1 Social Implications – This report has no direct social implications. It is anticipated that any activity will strengthen links between Swindon and its twin towns and widen the horizons of the individuals and groups involved in twinning activities
- 4.2 Environmental Implications – There are no environmental implications arising from this report

- 4.3 Staffing Implications – There are no staffing implications arising from this report
- 4.4 Legal/Human Rights Implications – This report has no specific legal or human rights implications
- 4.5 All other Risk Implications – None
- 4.6 Links to Corporate Plan – The Council is committed to developing and promoting a strong local image and “pride of place” for all (objective 4 – an economically prosperous place).

5 Detail

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The Town Twinning Network meets five 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.
- 5.3 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 meeting.

6 Appendices

- 6.1 None

7 Date

- 7.1 7th January 2005

The Director of Finance and Director of Law and Corporate Governance are consulted on all reports.

Further information regarding this report can be obtained from Alison Smith on Direct Dial No. 463612 or Email alsmith@swindon.gov.uk

The Lead Member for the service area subject to this report is Councillor Mike Bawden, Leader of the Council.

To: The Chair and Members of
the Town Twinning Network

Date: 18 January 2005

By: Director of Law and Corporate
Governance

Parish/Ward: All

Update on Swindon Borough Council Twinning Projects

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a verbal report updating members of the Town Twinning Network on the activities of Swindon Borough Council in relation to Twinning Projects since the last meeting of 25th November 2004.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members of the Town Twinning Network note the activities of Swindon Borough Council.

3 Financial and Procurement Implications

- 3.1 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.

4 Social, Environmental, Staffing, Legal/Human Rights, Risk and Other Implications

- 4.1 Social Implications – This report has no direct social implications. It is anticipated that any activity will strengthen links between Swindon and its twin towns and widen the horizons of the individuals and groups involved in twinning activities
- 4.2 Environmental Implications – There are no environmental implications arising from this report
- 4.3 Staffing Implications – There are no staffing implications arising from this report
- 4.4 Legal/Human Rights Implications – This report has no specific legal or human rights implications
- 4.5 All other Risk Implications – None

- 4.6 Links to Corporate Plan – The Council is committed to developing and promoting a strong local image and “pride of place” for all (objective 4 – an economically prosperous place).

5 Detail

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The Town Twinning Network meets five 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.
- 5.3 The Senior Economic Development Officer will provide members of the Network with a verbal update of the activities of Swindon Borough Council in relation to Town Twinning activities that have taken place since the last meeting of the Network.

6 Appendices

- 6.1 None

7 Date

- 7.1 7th January 2005

The Director of Finance and Director of Law and Corporate Governance are consulted on all reports.

Further information regarding this report can be obtained from Alison Smith on Direct Dial No. 463612 or Email alsmith@swindon.gov.uk

The Lead Member for the service area subject to this report is Councillor Mike Bawden, Leader of the Council.