

## **TOWN TWINNING NETWORK**

**TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2005**

PRESENT:- Councillors Derique Montaut (Chair), Doreen Dart, Stan Pajak, Philip Steele and Chris Van Roon; Mr Reg Clarke and Peter Mallinson (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke and John Mayell (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mr Phil Eagle and Richard Hailstone (La Garenne Link), Dr D Worsnip (Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association), Daryl Jones and John Mills (Swindon Borough Council).

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Ide (Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association)

### **12. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public**

Resolved – 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 the additional urgent item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 5 and 7 of Schedule 12A to the Act. (Minute 17 refers.)

### **13. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2005, be confirmed.

### Matters Arising

Reg Clarke reported that he had received a reply from the Leader of the Council regarding the 30 year anniversary of the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association and that an official delegation of 10 people would be going to Salzgitter from the 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April. He would report back on the outcomes of this visit at the next meeting of the Town Twinning Network.

### **14. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

### **15. Update on Swindon Borough Council Twinning Projects**

Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer) updated members of the Network on Swindon Borough Council Twinning Projects and reported that the Network's Constitution needed to be updated, particularly in relation to membership, the number of meetings held per year and the overall objectives of the Network. He added that it would be useful to have copies of the Business Plans from each of the Community Groups in order to plan for future Twinning activities and so that the Council can effectively focus its time and resources into Town Twinning.

Resolved – That members of the Network feedback any views or comments on the Constitution and the Town Twinning Report to Daryl Jones before the next meeting.

## **16. Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links**

### Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Reg Clarke reported that, as part of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, a delegation from Swindon would be visiting Salzgitter from 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April and that a group from Salzgitter would be visiting Swindon from 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June. A detailed programme of events had been organised for these visits.

Peter Mallinson informed the Network that he had been to the German Embassy to attend a one day seminar on funding. Two types of funding were available:

- European Commission Grant – this requires matching funding and is a very complex process making it less appropriate for smaller organisations.
- Twinning Grant – this is particularly for exchange visits with a particular theme and is a very simple process.

There is a booklet available. Contact Daryl Jones for more information.

### Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Bruce Clarke circulated the minutes of the last meeting of the Swindon Ocotal Link and highlighted a number of issues:

- Central America Week – 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April. There will be a stand in the Brunel Centre on 9<sup>th</sup> April and tickets are on sale at the Information Centre.
- Finance – SOL is a membership organisation and they now have 5 new members. Central America Week will also be used to try and increase membership of SOL.
- Teacher Exchange Project – this will take place next February 2006 and funding is currently being investigated for this to take place.

Bruce Clarke agreed to bring a copy of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between SOL and Swindon Borough Council to the next meeting of the Network.

The Chair asked that some thought be given to putting on a public event for all Swindon Twins and Links and added that Swindon Borough Council could possibly assist with funding for this event. He asked that representatives from the Twin Towns and Links get together outside of this meeting and develop some plans for this event.

### Highworth – Pontorson Twinning Association

Dr Worsnip reported that an application had been submitted to the European Commission, under the theme of Highworth's Railway legacy, in relation to 25 visitors from Pontorson visiting Highworth. Unfortunately, the application had been unsuccessful due to the high number of applicants. Dr Worsnip confirmed that the information was available on the European Commission's website but that there was a lot of competition for funding and that there was no guarantee that applications would be successful.

### La Garenne Link

Phil Eagle reported that a programme was currently being put together for a visit of 10-12 people on 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April. He added that it was hoped to put this Link on a more formal basis during this visit. The Schools in Haydon Wick had

already linked with schools in La Garenne and art work had been produced which had been on display in the North Swindon Library.

#### Potential Link with Chattanooga (USA)

Andy Lane attended the Network meeting to propose a potential link between Chattanooga, Tennessee and Swindon. He reported that there were a number of similarities between the two Towns:

- The railways
- Redevelopment of the Town Centres
- Similar Populations
- A number of US Companies are moving into Swindon
- Tourist opportunities
- US love the UK

He confirmed that the Chamber of Commerce were in full support of this opportunity and Daryl Jones confirmed that, in order to take this proposal forward, an official report with Member backing needs to be taken to the Cabinet. Daryl will prepare a draft report for consideration at the next Town Twinning Network meeting.

#### **17. Application for Town Twinning Grant**

Members of the Network considered a grant application from the Haydon Wick Twinning Committee for £500 towards the costs of hosting a visit by students in La Garenne Colombe, France to Haydon Wick, Swindon.

Resolved - (1) that the Town Twinning Network recommends that a grant of £500 be approved for the Haydon Wick Twinning Committee; and (2) that the Haydon Wick Twinning Committee report back to the Network on the outcomes of the visit.