

## **TOWN TWINNING NETWORK**

**TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2005**

PRESENT:- Councillors Derique Montaut (Chair), Doreen Dart and Philip Steele; Mr Reg Clarke and Peter Mallinson (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mr Phil Eagle (La Garenne Link) and Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer)

Apologies for absence were received from John Mayell and Mike Ide.

### **18. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. Councillors Philip Steele and Doreen Dart made a non prejudicial declarations of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 5 in their capacity as members of the host party for the Salzgitter visitors.

### **19. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2005, be confirmed.

#### Matters Arising

Minute 13 – Reg Clarke circulated a report on the outcomes of the official visit to Salzgitter that took place from 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April, as agreed at the last meeting of the Town Twinning Network.

Minute 15 – Daryl Jones and Bruce Clarke agreed to design a pro-forma requesting information from each of the twins and links in order to develop an overall Twinning Business Plan.

Minute 16 – Dr Worsnip confirmed that the application from the Highworth – Pontorson Twinning Association to the European Commission had been unsuccessful because it lacked sufficient European content rather than because of the high number of applicants.

Potential Link with Chattanooga – Councillor Dart reported that a preliminary meeting would be held this week to discuss this issue and confirmed that the Chamber of Commerce were supporting this link. Daryl Jones added that community groups tend to develop links to suit themselves and that, should these groups wish to make their links more official, then an approach to the Council should be made. A progress report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Network.

### **20. 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 involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 5 and 7 of Schedule 12A to the Act. (Minute 21 refers.)

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

Members of the Town Twinning network were asked to consider an application for a grant that had been received from the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association for £1000 to assist with the costs of a visit to Swindon by Salzgitter delegates between 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

Reg Clarke confirmed that Salzgitter had become an official twin town with Swindon in 1975 and that this year was its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A number of exchanges had been made over these 30 years that had involved different groups, including families, official delegates and officers of the Council. There had been a positive exchange of ideas and information between the two Councils and external funding had assisted with officer exchanges, particularly in relation to Education and the Youth Service. The grant was to be used for a visit by Salzgitter delegates to Swindon in June and a number of events and visits had been arranged to Swindon and the surrounding areas including a tree planting ceremony at the Polo Ground and a formal farewell evening. Reg Clarke made it clear that this visit would be separate to the official Civic visit that is due to take place later on in the year.

Members of the Network asked what community involvement there would be as part of this visit and whether there would be an opportunity for other groups to participate in the events. Reg Clarke replied that the visit was still in the planning stages and that numbers had not yet been confirmed which meant that there may be spare capacity on some of the events which could be available to members of other twins and links. The Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association would also be promoting the visit to schools and other community groups and information would be circulated to members of the Town Twinning Network.

Resolved – (1) That the Town Twinning Network recommends that a grant of £1000 be approved for the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association; and (2) That the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association report back to the Network on the outcome of the visit.

## **22. Any Other Business**

Bruce Clarke informed the Network that he would be putting a proposal forward to the next meeting seeking approval to obtain insurance for public events that all Swindon twins and links could use and benefit from.