

## **TOWN TWINNING NETWORK**

**THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2005**

PRESENT:- Councillor Derique Montaut (Chair), Councillors Debbie Baylies, Doreen Dart and Chris van Roon , Mr John Mayell (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mr Reg Clarke and Peter Mallinson (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mr D Ainscough (Lydiards - Tessy sur Vire Twinning Association), Mr Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer).

Mr. Andy Lane (Chattanooga Link) was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Glaholm and Stan Pajak, Ms Steph Trinci, Mr Phil Eagle and Mr Mike Ide and Dr David Worsnip.

### **29. Minutes**

Resolved – That subject to the changes set out below the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2005, be confirmed.

(a) Minute 25 lines 2 to 6 be amended to read Daryl confirmed that attendance at the Network is open to groups within a 50 mile radius from who the Network feels it can learn from to attend future meetings, at the invitation of the Chair, to give a short presentation on the type of activities they are involved in. Officers also be requested to bring back to a future meeting of this Forum a report setting out clear definitions for community groups within the context of town twinning and setting out a focus for future work.

(b) Minute 25(3) be amended to read “a press release be sent out regarding the activities of the Network and encouraging all other groups in Swindon, including Muslim nation communities, with international links to participate;”

### **30. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

### **31. Town Twinning Link with Chattanooga, USA**

The Forum considered a report from the Director of Cultural Change setting out information relating to the benefits of an official friendship link with Chattanooga, United States of America.

Andy Lane expanded on issues set out in the report and set out some of the immediate and potential long-term benefits of a friendship link.

The Forum generally agreed that the proposal was interesting and could be worth pursuing.

The Forum also discussed membership forms and access to information pertaining to grant aid. There appeared to be confusion as to whether membership forms had been amended and whether such a form needed to be completed to qualify for funding. The Senior Economic Development Officer was asked to clarify the situation and report to a future meeting.

Resolved – (1) That Andy Lane to prepare a report, in liaison with the Council's Town Twinning Officer setting out a mission statement, a business plan, financial and other resources implications and a breakdown of what it was hoped to achieve through the Friendship Agreement in order that the project could be progressed in more detail.

(2) That officers report progress to the next meeting of the Forum together with any feedback received from the Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

### **32. Update on Swindon Borough Council Projects**

The Director of Cultural Change submitted a report dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, setting out a report on activities of Swindon Borough Council in relation to Twinning projects since the July meeting of the Forum.

Resolved - (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Senior Economic Development Officer be requested to discuss with the Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry the inclusion of a representative from that organisation on this Forum.

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

The Forum considered (a) a report of the Director of Law and Corporate Governance dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2005, and (b) the following verbal reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links:

#### Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Bruce Clark reported the following activities of SOL:

➤ A fund raising event was to be held between 7.00 to 11.00pm at the Even Swindon Community Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> October, and that a flyer publishing the event was to be produced.

➤ On 9<sup>th</sup> November 9 people were leaving Swindon to visit Ocotal to strengthen ties and take £8,000 of funding for local projects.

➤ Next year would be the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ocotal Link and a significant programme of events was expected, including school links. The Network's support would be sought, as the cost of inviting Ocotal representatives to attend would be in the region of £800 per person. The Chair noted that this point should be raised with the Leader as soon as possible.

#### Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Reg Clarke reported that a civic delegation of 10 representatives from Salzgitter would be in Swindon from 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Twinning Agreement between Swindon and Salzgitter with the Mayor, two former Mayors and a representative of the German Embassy from London.

### **34. Town Twinning Network Financial Position**

The Director of Law and Corporate Governance submitted a report dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, setting out the financial position of the Town Twinning Network, together with a request for funding received in respect of the Civic delegation from Salzgitter.

The Network expressed its concern that the application for funding had not been made in accordance with normal procedures. Whilst there was consensus that the grant shouldn't be refused on this occasion the Network took a very strong view that all future applications should not be considered until the proper procedures had been met.

Resolved – (1) That the Town Twinning Network noted the reduction in the Revenue Budget 2005/06 to £2,00 from £5,000 from the previous year.

(2) That this Network welcomes the carry forward of the under spend amounting to £12,915.

(3) That the Director of Law and Corporate Governance be requested to approve the sum of £400 of the under spend to fund the preparation and publication of a leaflet promoting Swindon based Town Twinning.

(4) That, due to the exceptional circumstances the Director of Law and Corporate Governance be recommended to make an exception to the rules on a one off basis and approve the transfer of £3,000 of funding to the Mayoral Budget to help cover the costs of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civic delegation from Salzgitter from the budget under spend identified by officers and that this request not constitute a precedent for future funding requests.

(5) That each group in the Network be requested to complete a membership form/Business Plan setting out their objectives and any financial implications together with any possible call on the Town Twinning Grant budget in this and future years.

(6) That officers currently supporting the Town Twinning Network, and in particular Daryl Jones, be thanked and that the Chair be requested to meet with the Leader of Swindon Borough Council to discuss whether the Borough is willing to give greater priority to Town Twinning and make further officer resources available to the Network.