

# Swindon Borough Council

## Town Twinning Network

**Wednesday, 2 December 2009**

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, Swindon (Anticipated meeting room)

**At 6.00 p.m.**

**Conservative  
Councillors**

Doreen Dart  
Raymond Fisher  
Peter Mallinson  
Eric Shaw

**Labour  
Councillors**

Kevin Small

**Liberal Democrat  
Councillors**

Stan Pajak

John Hamilton, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association  
Mr D Ainscough, Lydiards - Tessy sur Vire Twinning Association  
Mr Bruce Clarke, Swindon Ocotal Link  
Mike Ide, Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association  
Andy Lane, Chattanooga, USA  
John Mayell, Swindon Ocotal Link  
Eric Craigie, Highworth - Pontorson Twinning Association  
Jane Sullivan, Lechlade Twinning Association

**Committee Officer:** Alison Smith (Telephone 01793 463612)

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## **AGENDA**

- 1. Appointment of Chair**
- 2. Appointment of Vice-Chair**
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
- 4. Declarations of Interest**  
Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)**  
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

## **7. Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 5 - 6)**

**Date of Despatch:** 24 November 2009

**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 Democratic Services 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 - Terms of Reference**

The Town Twinning Network seeks to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the development of Twinning Links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal) and other existing Twinning Links with towns in the Borough. It will also encourage the development of other international friendship links between the people of the Borough of Swindon and communities in other countries.

The Town Twinning Network will act as a co-ordinating body for interested groups and individuals seeking to promote twinning links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal).

The Town Twinning Network will seek to co-ordinate fund raising and publicity in relation to Town Twinning but will not itself undertake these activities.

The Town Twinning Network will seek 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.

The Town Twinning Network will receive and consider applications for Town Twinning grants and make recommendations to the Council.

The Town Twinning Network shall not hold funds or enter into any financial transactions.

**TOWN TWINNING NETWORK**

**WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2009**

PRESENT:- Councillors Doreen Dart (Chair), Raymond Fisher, Peter Mallinson, Eric Shaw and Kevin Small; Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mike Ide (Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association), Jane Sullivan (Lechlade Twinning Association), Derrick Gustafson (Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association), Mark Sarnowski (Torun and Swindon Twinning Enterprise), Nazma Ramruttun (potential link with Mauritius) and Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Capstick.

Apologies for absence were received from John Hamilton, Andy Lane and Councillor Stan Pajak.

**21. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

**22. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

**23. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.

**24. 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 Agenda Item 7 on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned (Minute 26 refers).

**25. Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links**

The Network considered (a) a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services and (b) the following verbal reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links:

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Councillor Peter Mallinson reported that there had been little activity since the last meeting of the Network but that work was currently being undertaken planning the next visit to Salzgitter.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Bruce Clarke reported that there would be 5 people, including someone from Salzgitter, visiting Ocotol from 16<sup>th</sup> October until 7<sup>th</sup> November. Ocotol would be celebrating 200 years as a city and there would be a celebration of twinning on 19<sup>th</sup> October, including Bollywood dancing. They were currently laying the foundations for a multi-national arrangement and a bid for funding would be submitted in June 2010. Bruce added that they would be celebrating 25 years of twinning next year and that they were always seeking new members.

#### Swindon Torun Link

Mark Sarnowski reported on the following activities of this Link:

- In June, Mark, Councillor Stan Pajak and Peter Robinson visited Torun to take part in the half marathon. They have issued an invite for people from Torun to participate in the Swindon half marathon and 6 people are coming over. They will be staying in the Jury Hotel and a programme of activities will be put together for their visit.
- The Polish Olympics will take place during August for 9 days – this takes place every two years.
- Torun will be bidding for the European City of Culture in 2016 and support was being sought from other Twins as there are other big cities also competing for this.
- There is a need for more involvement from people in Swindon and the Chair suggested that an article be put into the Swindon Advertiser asking for more interest from Swindon people.
- Links/Twins with Torun were invited each year to the photography project – people from Swindon have visited for the last 4/5 years.

#### Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association

Mike Ide reported that a couple of social events had taken place recently, including a BBQ and a cheese tasting competition. Preparations were taking place for the AGM, including finalising the accounts. Mike added that St Germain les Corbeil would be celebrating 15 years of twinning with their German twin next year so it was unlikely that they would be visiting Wroughton.

#### Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association

Derrick Gustafson reported that following the recent visit to Pontorson, a number of people from the Choir had decided to join the twinning association and that they would be pushing for more special interest groups to become involved in the future especially junior football, the silver band and anglers.

The annual quiz would take place in a couple of weeks.

May 14<sup>th</sup> has been set to sign charter with Wassenberg and the following weekend will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning between Highworth and Pontorson.

#### Lechlade Twinning Association

Jane Sullivan reported that she was now the Chair of the association and that she had recently visited La Chappelle for the jam festival. They had been successful in encouraging the schools to link together and exchange visits between the children had recently taken place. The next visit to Lechlade would take place in July 2010 and a number of events were taking place, including Bottles and Berries and wine

tasting on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

#### Potential Link with Mauritius

Nazma Ramruttun reported that she had visited Mauritius in June and that she had taken over a letter from the Mayor of Swindon and the Chair of Town Twinning Network regarding a potential friendship link. The Mayor of Mauritius had visited Swindon in September and had met with the Chair and the Deputy Mayor and had also visited Churchfields School.

#### Geminid

David Martin explained that he had been working with Bruce Clarke and Peter Robinson on a grant for EU funding under the title of “promoting positive participation” and that to be successful, they had to link with at least 3 other countries. They had missed the last deadline and were therefore looking to submit an application on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 for a conference that must take place between June 2010 and February 2011. The purpose of this conference was to focus upon young people and David Martin would be coming back to the Network in December with a plan of action and an application for funding to support some of the costs towards this conference.

#### **26. Application for a Town Twinning Grant - Torun and Swindon Twinning Enterprise**

Members of the Town Twinning Network were asked to consider an application for a grant that had been received from the Torun and Swindon Twinning Enterprise (TASTE) for £650 as a contribution towards the costs of a photography exhibition to be held at Swindon Central Library during November and December 2009.

Resolved – (1) That, subject to a review and acceptance of the accounts by the Director of Law and Democratic Services, the Town Twinning Network recommends that a grant on £650 be approved for the Torun and Swindon Twinning Enterprise.

(2) That clarification is sought as to the original criteria that were set when this grant budget was established.

#### **27. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Town Twinning Network will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 at 6pm.

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## Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

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**Author:** Director of Law and Democratic Services

**Wards Affected:** All

### **Purpose**

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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009:

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link
- Wroughton-St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
- Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association
- Chattanooga, USA
- Swindon Twinning Civic activities
- Other Twins/Links present at the meeting

### **Recommendation**

The Town Twinning Network is asked to: -

- Note the activities of the Twinning Associations and Links.

### **1. Reasons**

- 1.1 To keep the Town Twinning Network informed of the activities of the Town Twins and Links within Swindon and its surrounding areas and to provide a forum for these groups to exchange information and area of good practice.

### **2. Detail**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The Town Twinning Network meets four 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.
- 2.3 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.

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Alison Smith on 01793 463612 or Email [alsmith@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:alsmith@swindon.gov.uk).

# Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

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## Alternative Options

- Not applicable

## Risk Management

### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

- 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.

### *Legal / Human Rights Implications*

- This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

### *Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)*

- The Council is committed to the regeneration of the Town Centre and will seek to maximise existing investment and attract further inward investment into the Town. Town Twinning activities will contribute to this.

## Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## Background Papers and Appendices

- None

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Alison Smith on 01793 463612 or Email [alsmith@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:alsmith@swindon.gov.uk).