

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 3 March 2010

Committee Room 1, 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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(Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. 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.

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. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2009.

5. Update on Town Twinning Grants (Pages 5 - 8)

6. Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 9 - 16)

Date of Despatch: 24 February 2010

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.

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TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2009

PRESENT:- Councillors Doreen Dart, Ray Fisher and Stan Pajak; Mr Bruce Clarke and John Mayell (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mike Ide (Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association), Andy Lane (Chattanooga, USA), Derrick Gustafson (Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association), David Martin (Geminid), Nigel Henham (Swindon Chamber of Commerce), Peter Hall (Haydon Wick Parish Council) and Haasan Nur (Potential link with Somaliland).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Mallinson, Eric Shaw and Kevin Small; John Hamilton, Paul Howlett and Mark Sarnowski.

1. Appointment of Chair

Resolved – That Councillor Doreen Dart be Chair of the Town Twinning Network until December 2010.

(Councillor Dart took the Chair)

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved – That Andy Lane be Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network until December 2010.

3. 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.

4. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

5. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Minute 26 (Application for a Town Twinning Grant – Torun and Swindon Twinning Enterprise) – the clerk to the Network confirmed that the grants team were satisfied with the accounts provided by TASTE and that their grant application was currently being circulated for approval. With regards to the original criteria set when the twinning grants budget was established, it was agreed that the Chair and the clerk would meet with the Director of Law and Democratic Services and that a report would be presented at the next Town Twinning Network meeting outlining the current budget provision and criteria for Town Twinning grants.

6. Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

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

Potential Link with Mauritius

The Chair read out a letter that she had received from the Mayor of Mauritius offering thanks for the hospitality that he received during his recent visit to Swindon. Nazma Ramruttun was currently visiting Mauritius and would take best wishes from the people of Swindon back to the Mayor of Mauritius.

Potential Link with Somaliland

Haasan Nur attended the meeting to talk about a potential link between Swindon and Somaliland, particularly as there were a large number of people living in Swindon who were from Somaliland, in particular from Salahley. He had met with the Mayor from Salahley who had expressed an interest in developing a link with Swindon and they had already collected £15K to help build a school there. The group were also keen to build a clinic there and were already raising money for this initiative. Haasan would be meeting with the Mayor again in April and felt that it would be useful to have an exchange of letters of friendship between the two towns. It was agreed that Haasan would bring some further information to the next meeting of the Town Twinning Network in March 2010.

Haydon Wick Parish Council

Peter Hall attended this meeting as Haydon Wick Parish Council were keen to develop a link with a sub-region of Salzgitter. David Martin agreed to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council's communications committee to discuss this in further detail.

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Councillor Dart reported that the next visit to Salzgitter would take place in mid May 2010.

Swindon Ocotal Link

Bruce Clarke confirmed that five people had visited Ocotal to celebrate 200 years Ocotal as a city and that there had also been a representative from Salzgitter there. Dorothy Clarke had successfully introduced Bollywood dancing and the costumes and make-up had been left in Ocotal to be used at other events. There were also talks regarding a project between the rotary clubs in Swindon and Ocotal.

A conference had been held recently in Bristol regarding links with Nicaragua which had been well attended and proved that there were some very successful links being developed.

Bruce added that they would be celebrating 20 years of twinning next year and that they were looking to bring some dancers to Swindon in June/July 2010.

Torun and Swindon Twinning Enterprise (TASTE)

Six visitors from Torun visited Swindon to take part in the half marathon which was won by Krzyst Bartkiewicz in 1 hour 11 minutes. The long weekend was a great success and they visited a number of places in and around Swindon. It was hoped that a team from Swindon would visit Torun for their annual running event in June 2010.

An exhibition of photographs taken in Torun is being organised at the Central library in Swindon for which a Town Twinning grant had been granted.

Preparations were currently underway for a Torun long weekend in 2010.

Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association

Mike Ide reported that the committee had been re-elected at their AGM on 3rd November and that they would be meeting on 3rd December to plan next year's events. They also have an informal agreement with some of the villages to the West of Swindon and would be attending a party at Lydiard Millicent in January.

Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association

Derrick Gustafson reported that their annual quiz had been attended by 64 people and had raised £180. 39 visitors from Pontorson were expected this weekend and activities will include a concert by the Choral Society and a dinner at St Michael's Hall on the Sunday night. It would be the 20th anniversary of Twinning with Pontorson next year.

Derrick explained that the Association were on the verge of splitting into two organisations, one of Pontorson and one for Wassenberg and that there may be two representatives attending the Town Twinning Network meetings in the future.

Chattanooga Friendship Agreement

Andy Lane explained that he was about to sign a license for trading between America and Europe and that he hoped that this would spark other activities.

Geminid

David Martin circulated information following a meeting held in Salzgitter to consider the best approach to obtaining EU funding as some funds require more than three participating countries. It was planned to hold an International Youth Festival in Salzgitter next year and this event already had the agreement and support of Swindon Youth Service. Further information regarding the various EU programmes was outlined in this paper (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). David would be visiting Salzgitter in January 2010 in order to take these initiatives forward and he would contact members of the Town Twinning Network prior to his visit to invite any comments or ideas to contribute to this International activity.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Twinning Network will be held on Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 6pm.

Update on Town Twinning Grants

Town Twinning Network

Date: 3rd March 2010

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To inform members of the Town Twinning Network of the funds currently available for Town Twinning grants and the background to how these funds were established, as requested at the last meeting of the Network held on 2nd December 2009.

Recommendation

The Town Twinning Network is requested to

- Note the contents of the report.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 At the meeting held on 2nd December 2009, members of the Town Twinning Network requested further information be provided in order to clarify the current level of funds available for Town Twinning grants from the Council and the criteria that was originally used to establish these funds.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The Town Twinning Network has no budget provided by the Council. In 2001, Mr. Derek Benfield (then Chair of the Network, a Councillor and former Mayor of the Borough) asked, and the Cabinet agreed, that any surplus on the Civic Twinning budget of £6000 (used for funding Civic visits between Swindon and Salzgitter and Ocotal) rather than being absorbed into the Council's reserves as an efficiency saving should be put into a separate reserve account to be used for small grants to support Town Twinning activities. It was agreed that the Network would be involved in the process associated with awarding such grants.
- 2.2 The Civic Twinning budget enabled the official civic twinning activities between the Council and its twin towns to take place, allowing the Mayor of Salzgitter and guests to visit Swindon every other year and the Mayor of Swindon and guests to visit Salzgitter in the intervening years. The cost of hosting visitors from Salzgitter was usually greater than sending visitors to Salzgitter and therefore every other year there should be some surplus available from this budget.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from *Alison Smith* on *Direct Dial No. 3612* or Email alsmith@swindon.gov.uk.

Update on Town Twinning Grants

Town Twinning Network

Date: 3rd March 2010

- 2.3 Because of Budget pressures and the need to make efficiency savings in the financial year 2006/2007 the Civic Twinning budget was reduced to £2,000. The Budget has remained cash limited at £2000 every year from this date and has not increased with inflation. This means that this budget now rarely under spends on the official Civic visits and, in fact, in recent years of visits from Salzgitter costs have exceeded budget and use has had to be made of the reserve fund to balance the budget. Therefore there has been no surplus to transfer to the reserve fund for Town Twinning grants for some years. The Council has not allocated any monies to support the Network or to this reserve and the budget (reserve fund) will therefore decline with every Town Twinning grant awarded or any overspend on the cost of the official Civic Twinning activities (visits).
- 2.4 All Town Twinning grants are authorised by the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Twinning, the Chief Executive, the grants team and the Town Twinning Network. All views are taken on board but the final decision on the award of any Town Twinning grants lies with the Director of Law and Democratic Services.
- 2.5 At the time of writing this report, the reserve fund available for Town Twinning grants was £4250.

Alternative Options

- There are no alternative options as this report is for information only.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- The reserve fund available for Town Twinning grants is currently £4250. The Council does not allocate any monies to this reserve and therefore it will decline with every grant awarded or any overspend on the cost of Civic Twinning visits.

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)

- There are no specific links to Corporate Plans or Policies for Town Twinning activities.

Consultees

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from *Alison Smith* on Direct Dial No. 3612 or Email alsmith@swindon.gov.uk.

Update on Town Twinning Grants

Town Twinning Network

Date: 3rd March 2010

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

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from *Alison Smith* on *Direct Dial No. 3612* or Email alsmith@swindon.gov.uk.

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Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 3 March 2010

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 2nd December 2009:

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link (see appendix 1)
- Wroughton-St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
- Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association
- Chattanooga, USA
- Disney World (see appendix 2)
- 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.

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

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 3 March 2010

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

- Appendix 1 – information from Swindon Torun Link
- Appendix 2 – information from Disney World Link

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



Swindon to Torun Trip: 5th June to 9th June 2010

Torun is a beautiful historic city with great nightlife, plenty of events and shopping opportunities. with low cost flights available we are offering our second short break from Swindon to Torun. Further details and booking form below.



This break features a number of events including a tour of the Old City and the Torun marathon. Hotel accommodation right next to the Old City at Hotelik w Centrum.

Cost of the Trip is £110.00.

We will be providing return coach travel from Swindon to Bristol airport, and then from Bydgoszcz airport to the hotel, 4 nights hotel accommodation with breakfast and a tour of the historic town centre. Flights to Bydgoszcz (40 minutes drive from Torun) are currently available at low cost and need to be booked individually at www.ryanair.com

Itinery

Saturday	Depart Swindon at 1pm to Bristol Airport. Arrive at the hotel around 9.30pm

Sunday	Torun Marathon.
Monday	Guided tour of the Old City.
Tuesday	Free time.
Wednesday	Return to Swindon.

Download the Information Sheet and Deposit Form
Download (save as) our .jpg Flyer

Download (save as) our Polish word list
Download (save as) a tourist information leaflet with small map (2.7mb)

Flight Information

Friday, 5th June 2010 / Flight 2462
Depart 16.45 / Bristol Airport
Arrive 20.15 / Bydgoszcz (BZG)

Return Wednesday 9th June 2010 / Flight 2463
Depart 20.40 / Bydgoszcz (BZG)
Arrive 22.10 / Bristol Airport

Online Booking

Please complete your details to book online now: Name: Surname: Telephone: Email: Number of
places: Accommodation: (single/double)

Cost : £110 per person for the trip with accommodation.
Does not include flight from UK.

Online Booking

please complete your details:

First name:

Last name:

No. of Places:

Phone:

Email:

Please complete all fields.

After booking, we will send you email confirmation.
Please note there are a limited number of 40 places.
Alternatively, please contact Stan or Danusia.

More information about Torun together with photographs are available at www.toruntrips.co.uk.
This trip is offered by TASTE, the Torun and Swindon Twinning Enterprise.

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Disney World, Orlando, Friendship with Swindon

Councillors may well be aware of the friendship link with Disneyland Florida which has emerged over the last few months. The friendship link was initiated by the Disney Corporation who picked a local resident in a national competition to find a town to be linked with. It lasts for the calendar year of 2010

Officers and Councillor Brian Mattock have met with representatives of Disney to discuss how this friendship may be recognised and celebrated, and the Mayor attended a ceremony on the 16th February where a friendship plaque was unveiled.

Ideas currently being considered by Disney include:

Community Projects – Disney employees undertaking work in the community
Old Town Festival – Disney characters making an appearance
International children's Day June 1st – Disney supporting this initiative
Swindon Film Festival – Disney supporting this event
Town centre events such as a parade, Christmas lights switch on
Educational – linking Swindon Colleges to experts from Disney to contribute lectures etc
Business, inviting the Disney institute to run a master class for Swindon hospitality and other service businesses.

These discussions are ongoing and I would be pleased to update you at a future meeting.

Bill Cotton
Director Economic and Cultural Development
Swindon Borough Council.

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