

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 29 September 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

Derrick Gustafson

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

Jane Sullivan, Lechlade Twinning Association

David Martin - Geminid

Committee Officer: Alison Smith (Telephone 01793 463612)

Email: alsmith@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH
(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 - 8)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2010.

5. Role of the Town Twinning Network in supporting Twinning and Friendship Links in and around Swindon (Pages 9 - 18)

This report includes a submission from Bruce Clarke on establishing an autonomous International Linking group (see Appendix 1 to the report).

Bill Cotton (Director of Economic Development, Forward Swindon) will also attend this meeting to discuss ideas about developing potential economic links with the twin towns and friendship links.

6. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 19 - 20)

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Twinning Network will be held on 1st December 2010 at 6pm.

Date of Despatch: 17 September 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.

This page is intentionally left blank

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE 2010

PRESENT:- Councillors Doreen Dart (Chair), Eric Shaw and Kevin Small; Derrick Gustafson (Highworth Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Mike Ide (Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association), David Martin (Geminid), Nazma Ramruttun (Potential link with Beau Bassin, Mauritius).

Apologies for absence were received from John Hamilton, Tom Wilkes, Councillor Raymond Fisher, Andy Lane, Councillor Peter Mallinson, Hassan Nur, John Mayell and Councillor Stan Pajak.

14. 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.

15. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

16. Minutes

Resolved – That, subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record:

- (a) “Highworth – Pontorson Twinning Association” be changed to “Highworth Twinning Association”.
- (b) Visitors from Pontorson would be coming to Highworth from 21st – 24th May to celebrate the 20th anniversary and not the 21st anniversary.
- (c) “Salaley” in Somaliland should be spelt “Salahley”.

Matters Arising

Minute 11 – Andy Lane, David Martin and Bruce Clarke circulated notes from a meeting they had recently held to discuss the structure of Town Twinning. A copy of these notes is attached to these minutes. Bruce explained that, whilst it was helpful to have Civic recognition, the current structure did not allow for an entrepreneurial approach to town twinning and their proposal was to investigate the possibility of forming an arms length civic twinning/friendship organisation.

The following actions were agreed:-

- (i) a further detailed report be submitted to the next Town Twinning Network meeting outlining how an arms length organisation could be formed and run.
- (ii) A report from the Director of Law and Democratic Services advising how the structure of the Town Twinning Network currently supports town twinning in the Borough of Swindon be submitted to the next meeting.
- (iii) The Head of Economic Development provide a report to the network, within six months, outlining the benefits of twinning and the development of International Links.

- (iv) That the Councillors on the Town Twinning Network meet with the Director of Law and Democratic Services prior to him producing his report.

Minute 12 – Potential link with Salahley in Somaliland. Members of the Town Twinning Network expressed their support towards the development of this group and looked forward to receiving further reports outlining the group's progress towards the establishment of a friendship agreement with Swindon.

Minute 12 – Disneyland. It was agreed that the Chair would write to Bill Cotton (Head of Economic Development) requesting that he attends the next meeting of the Town Twinning Network meeting in September.

17. 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:

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

The Chair advised that a group of about 6 people would be visiting Salzgitter in the near future.

Swindon Ocotal Link

Bruce Clarke advised that the 20th anniversary of twinning between Swindon and Ocotal was coming up and he submitted an application form for a grant of £300 to assist with costs associated with activities relating to the 20th anniversary.

Resolved – That the Town Twinning Network recommends to the Director of Law and Democratic Services that a grant of £300 be approved for the Swindon Ocotal Link to assist with costs towards the 20th anniversary celebrations.

Swindon Torun Link

A report was circulated outlining the trip to Torun that takes place from 5th – 9th June 2010.

Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association

Mike Ide agreed to circulate details regarding public liability costs (this information is attached to the minutes)

Highworth Twinning Association

Derrick Gustafson advised that the AGM had recently been held and the group were now operating without a Chairman and a secretary. Highworth had now officially twinned with Wassenberg and they had recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of twinning with Pontorson.

Chattanooga

The Chair reported that Andy Lane was still very keen to develop this link but that there had been slow progress on the business side.

Potential link with Beau Bassin/Rose Hill in Mauritius

Nazma Ramruttun reported that she had visited in April and had met with the ex Mayor and ex Chief Executive who had accepted a letter of friendship from the Chair of the Town Twinning Network. Successful links were being forged between the two schools and they were keen to develop a website with the possibility of exchange visits taking place following exams.

Geminid

David Martin reported that he was putting together an application to fund exchanges between the over 24 year olds and that the Training Bridge programme was active with exchanges of apprentices who were 18 – 24 years of age. He had also met with the new Culture Manager and was keen to work towards putting in a bid for a cultural exchange.

This page is intentionally left blank

Notes from meeting on the structure of town twinning June 1st 2010

Andy Lane, David Martin and Bruce Clarke

1. It was agreed that the current arrangements enable twinning and friendship groups to achieve various levels of civic recognition and this was felt to be helpful.
2. The funding, albeit small, was also helpful and regular reporting keeps members of the network up to date.
3. It was felt that it was the right time for the network to consider moving to the next level of its development due to the following drivers:
 - a) Despite the success of the individual links it is clear that the Council does not have a policy for International Development and for many reasons and competing priorities does not place value on the work of the linking groups or see how the friendship and twinning links can support the Council's strategic objectives. It was also felt that in the current climate this position will not improve and may diminish further.
 - b) The Network is facing its own funding crisis
 - c) The development of the network is hampered by the SBC structure of a Council committee because;
 - a. It does not have control of its finances.
 - b. membership lacks criteria and as such does not place demands on its members leading to atrophy of the network and failure to bring together the extensive linking that goes on in the town.
 - c. Further it was felt that due to no policy on International linking the Council was unlikely to lead on European applications.
4. Yet what was clear was the Civic link to the Mayors office of the various network members was valued by groups and should not be lost. Discussion was had about clarifying the distinction between the Council's executive and the role of Mayor. It was also discussed that the network had a responsibility to supporting the Mayor's office with recommendations and civic arrangements.

Conclusions:

1. **Stay the same** – Given the climate this was the least favoured approach
2. **Become a separate group** – loss of the link to the Mayors Office would a mistake.
3. **Form an 'arms length' civic twinning/friendship organisation** – This proposal would see an organisation set up as legal entity that enshrines its civic responsibilities to the Mayors represented in the network. It would be able to raise funds through grants and EU funding sources maintain a close relationship with authorities through service level agreements and seek sponsors such as the Bristol Twinning example that is housed in the University of West of England.

The proposal at this stage is for the network to decide if it wishes to make changes or not and if so what direction to go in. The meeting recommend we adopt the third approach.

This page is intentionally left blank

Minute Item 17

Alison Smith

From: Mike Ide [mike_ide@hotmail.com]
Sent: 02 June 2010 23:35
To: Alison Smith
Cc: b.clarke22@btinternet.com
Subject: FW: Wroughton Twinning Association - Quote Ref: T100687

Dear Alison,

Would you please forward this message to the local twinning associations in your e-mail contact list. 'cgs' is Community Group Scheme and this premium is for small groups. It is probably a good idea to contact them by 'phone on 01234 358535 to tell them how small your group is, that you have no premises and no employees, etc.. Thanks, Mike

From: cgs@financeredirect.co.uk
 To: mike_ide@hotmail.com

Further to our telephone conversation, we can provide the following quotation for

- £1 Million Public Liability - **£46.75**
- £1000 contents cover can be added for an additional **£25.00** (with £100 excess) if required

Please note hazardous activities are excluded (see below for examples of hazardous activities).

Important Information on the cover provided under the Community Group Scheme - Please read:

This Policy is not intended to cover hazardous activities or hazardous fund raising events. For example: bungee jumping or any activities involving bungee ropes or cords; rock climbing; mountaineering or abseiling; obstacle courses; "It's a Knockout" type competitions; swimming or diving events of any kind; fireworks or any form of pyrotechnics.

The above list is not exhaustive and should be read as examples only. The intention of the policy is to exclude "hazardous" activities. If you are in any doubt as to what constitutes 'hazardous activities' you should contact us at Finance ReDirect Limited to discuss the type of activities that are excluded.

Please note that this policy excludes Abuse cover. If this cover is a specific requirement for your organisation then please contact us. For the purposes of this policy, Abuse shall mean:

- A) acts of hurting or injuring mentally or physically by maltreatment or ill-use
- B) acts of forcing sexual activity rape or molestation or
- C) repeated or continuing contemptuous coarse or insulting words or behaviours

How to Proceed:

The above quotation is valid for 30 days. The quotation can be accepted by return e-mail instructing us that you wish to proceed. Usually cover is not effected until your premium cheque (for the relevant amount) has been received at our offices – please see address below.

Please make your cheque payable to *Finance ReDirect Limited* and write your quotation reference on the reverse. On receipt of your premium cheque you will be sent an acknowledgement e-mail and your policy documents will be issued (usually within 5-7 working days).

If you require any further clarification about the quotation provided and the cover it relates to, or you need to clarify the process involved in placing cover, please contact us by return e-mail

With Regards,

CGS Team – Samantha Thapar
Finance ReDirect Limited
2nd Floor
6 St Paul's Square
Bedford
MK40 1SQ

www.financeredirect.co.uk

*Finance ReDirect Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.
The information contained in this message is confidential and may be legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not read, copy or otherwise use it and do not disclose it to anyone else.*

Please notify the sender of the delivery error and then delete the message from your system. Thank you.

Get a new e-mail account with Hotmail – Free. [Sign-up now.](#)

Role of the Town Twinning Network in supporting Twinning and Friendship Links in and around Swindon

**Town Twinning Network
2010**

Date: 29 September

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- At the meeting held on 2nd June 2010, members of the Town Twinning Network asked that a report be submitted to their next meeting outlining how the Network and Swindon Borough Council support Town Twinning activities within the Borough of Swindon.

Recommendation

The Town Twinning Network is asked to: -

- Note the contents of the report.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 A number of discussions have taken place over the last few years regarding the role of the Town Twinning Network and, in particular, the commitment of Swindon Borough Council in supporting Town Twinning and Friendship Link activities within the Borough of Swindon. At the last meeting, held on 2nd June, Bruce Clarke, Andy Lane and David Martin submitted a proposal that the Network became an arms length organisation in order that it could apply for external sources of funding, especially EU funding, and that it could generate a more entrepreneurial approach to Town Twinning, whilst retaining its Civic links with the Council.
- 1.2 Further information was requested as to how this arms length organisation could be developed and a submission from Bruce Clarke is attached to this report as Appendix 1. Alongside this, members of the Network also asked for a report to be prepared by the Director of Law and Democratic Services, outlining how the current structure within the Council supports the activities and development of Twinning within the Borough of Swindon.

2. Detail

- 2.1 In 1999 the Council agreed that a Town Twinning Network should be established and that this Network should have its own constitution.

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

Role of the Town Twinning Network in supporting Twinning and Friendship Links in and around Swindon

Town Twinning Network
2010

Date: 29 September

The constitution is attached as Appendix 2 and lists the four objectives of the Town Twinning Network as:

- 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.

- 2.2 A number of discussions have taken place over the last few years regarding the role of the Town Twinning Network and, at the meeting on 20th June 2007, members of the Town Twinning Network reviewed both the name of the Network and the contents of the constitution to ensure that they were up to date and relevant. At this meeting, agreement was reached by the members of the Town Twinning Network that no changes were necessary to either the constitution or the name of the Network as it was felt that the Town Twinning Network should continue in the manner for which it was originally established.
- 2.3 The Network currently functions adequately as a forum for discussion and the exchange of information. However, some members of the Network feel that the current Council structure restricts any effective development of twinning and linking activities and, as a result, have put forward a proposal to develop an arms length civic twinning/friendship organisation that would *“see an organisation set up as a legal entity that enshrines its civic responsibilities to the Mayors represented in the Network and that would be able to raise funds through grants and EU funding sources, maintaining a close relationship with authorities through service level agreements and seek sponsors such as the Bristol Twinning example that is housed in the University of West of England”*.
- 2.4 Members of the Town Twinning Network have also raised other concerns over the last few years, namely in relation to the funding of grants for Town Twinning activities and in the provision of officer support to assist groups with their activities, particularly in relation to assistance in applying for funding from external sources.

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

Role of the Town Twinning Network in supporting Twinning and Friendship Links in and around Swindon

**Town Twinning Network
2010**

Date: 29 September

Funding

A report was submitted to the Town Twinning Network meeting held on 19th March 2010 informing members of the Network of the funds currently available for Town Twinning grants and the background as to how these funds were established. Members noted that the fund had been established in 2001 and that the fund would decline with every Town Twinning grant awarded or any overspend on the cost of official Civic Twinning activities. This fund currently stands at £5250. This report prompted some members of the Network to review the structure and has resulted in the proposal to establish an arms length organisation.

Officer support

Currently, the Council's commitment to supporting the Town Twinning Network is to provide a clerk to service the Town Twinning Network meetings.

In 2004, a commitment was given to the Network that the then Senior Economic Development Officer would spend one to one and a half days per month on Town Twinning activities. This commitment ceased when the officer left Swindon Borough Council in 2006 and, whilst a number of requests were submitted to both the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive for similar officer support to be provided, these requests were unable to be met within existing resources.

- 2.5 It is highly unlikely that additional funding and/or officer support would be provided to the Town Twinning Network in the current economic climate and members of the Network may want to give consideration to whether changes should be made to the current structure, in conjunction with the proposal to develop an arms length organisation.

2.6 Cost benefit analysis

Salzgitter Twinning Association and Swindon Ocotol Link each receive an annual grant from the Council of £500 and £1800 respectively as these are the two official twin towns with Swindon. Each group has to complete an application form to be eligible for this grant each year and to provide information as to how the grant was to be spent

Role of the Town Twinning Network in supporting Twinning and Friendship Links in and around Swindon

Town Twinning Network
2010

Date: 29 September

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association received £500 last year (2009/10) and the grant was used to assist with the group's administrative expenses through the following activities:-

- Attracting new members by publicity
- Organising monthly business and social meetings for members; and
- Arranging a cultural visit to Salzgitter in May/June 2010.

Other funding was raised by members paying an annual subscription fee and from fund raising events. At the time of writing this report, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association had not yet submitted their application for a grant for 2010/11.

Swindon Ocotal Link received £1800 for 2010/11 and a detailed service level agreement outlined how this grant would be used and provides information under the following headings:-

- Facilitate exchange of citizens between the two towns
- Arrange 20 year Anniversary visit from Ocotal to Swindon
- Promote community to community and people to people links
- Provide a national profile
- Facilitate official civic communication between the two towns
- Provide opportunities for learning in our schools and communities about the example of Ocotal
- Raise funds for social projects in Ocotal: and
- Raise the profile of Ocotal.

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)

- There are no direct links to Town Twinning within the Council's Corporate plans and policies.

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

Role of the Town Twinning Network in supporting Twinning and Friendship Links in and around Swindon

**Town Twinning Network
2010**

Date: 29 September

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 – Update to the Town Twinning Committee on establishing an autonomous International Linking group (submission from Bruce Clarke).
- Appendix 2 - Constitution of the Town Twinning Network

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Update to Town Twinning Committee on establishing an autonomous International Linking group

September 2010

Further to the last paper presented at the last town Twinning Committee

From information forwarded from Cllr Doreen Dart following a meeting with the Borough Solicitor it appears that the Borough is required to have a committee structure to report on formal twinning links that Swindon Borough Council have undertaken or is considering.

In addition David Martin has initiated an International Exchange Group that is open to any group that has international exchange interests. This group met on 15th September. The group is being brought together under the Geminid Organisation and will report at the next Town Twinning meeting.

Taking both these items into account it is proposed that support be given David Martin's Initiative to establish an independent group that maintains a strong relationship with the Borough especially with regard to European funding applications.

In the meantime the Town Twinning network continues as the Borough's formal Town Twinning committee.

This enables those parties that want to push ahead with exchange activities and promote other forms of linking, such as we see between schools and businesses. The difference is the ability to act without the formal structures required of a Borough committee whilst at the same time ensuring the civic issues relating to the Borough and the role of the Mayor are preserved.

The new group will be able to report at twinning meetings of activities being under taken.

This proposal has not been agreed with David Martin or Andy Lane and is at this stage an early proposal.

Bruce Clarke

Chair Swindon Ocotal Link

This page is intentionally left blank

Constitution of Town Twinning Network

1. Mission Statement

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 in 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.

2. Objectives

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.

3. Membership

Membership of the Town Twinning Network will comprise:

Two representatives of Salzgitter Adult Group

Two representatives of Swindon Ocotal Link

One representative of Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry

One representative of Swindon Youth Council

Six Members of Swindon Borough Council

Such other persons as the Town Twinning Network shall from time to time co-opt to membership, together with the following ex-officio not voting members:

A representative of the Director of Law and Democratic Services, Swindon Borough Council

The European and International Officer, Swindon Borough Council

Two representatives of the Director of Education and Community, Swindon Borough Council

4. Meetings and Annual Meeting

The Town Twinning Network will meet at least three times in each calendar year.

The Chair shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and serve for one year regardless of changes in his/her nomination status to the Network (ie the election to the Chair is incontrovertibly personal for one year).

The Vice - Chair shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and serve for one year regardless of changes in his/her nomination status to the Network.

Nominating bodies shall inform the Network of changes in its nominees. Such information shall appear as an item on the agenda of the Network, at which time the Network shall decide if it wishes to take its own action in the light of such information.

The quorum for meetings of the Town Twinning Network shall be five, or such other number as the Network shall from time to time determine.

The Borough Solicitor, Swindon Borough Council, will be Hon. Secretary and will arrange for the despatch of notices of meetings and for the keeping of minutes.

At least three clear days notice of the time and place of an intended meeting of the Town Twinning Network shall be given. Failure to give such notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at any meeting of the Network.

Voting at meetings will be by a show of hands and a simple majority of those members present and voting shall suffice. The Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

The proceedings of the Town Twinning Network shall not be invalidated by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment or qualifications of a member.

5. Financial Arrangements

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

6. Amendment of Constitution

This constitution can be amended by notice of motion to be proposed at one meeting and voted on at the next by the Town Twinning Network and passed by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting.

7. Attendance by the Press and Public

Attendance by the Press and Public at meetings of the Town Twinning Network is welcomed subject to the Network having the discretion to ask those persons to leave when any item marked 'private and confidential' on the agenda or a report is considered.

June 2007

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 29 September 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 June 2010:

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link (see attached)
- Wroughton-St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
- Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association
- Chattanooga, USA
- 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: 29 September 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

- None

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