

# Swindon Borough Council

## Town Twinning Network

**Wednesday, 1 December 2010**

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

Derrick Gustafson, Highworth Twinning Association  
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

**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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

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

**8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

**Date of Despatch:** 23 November 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, 29 SEPTEMBER 2010**

PRESENT:- Councillors Doreen Dart (Chair), Raymond Fisher, Eric Shaw and Kevin Small; Derrick Gustafson (Highworth Twinning Association), Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Andy Lane (Chattanooga, USA), David Martin (Geminid), Mark Sarnowski (Swindon Torun Link) and Lawrence Murphy (Forward Swindon).

A representative from the Police was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from John Hamilton, Councillor Stan Pajak, Hassan Nur and Tom Wilkes.

**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. No declarations were made.

**19. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

**20. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

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

The Network considered (a) a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services outlining how the Network and Swindon Borough Council support Town Twinning activities within the Borough of Swindon; (b) the submission from Bruce Clarke on establishing an autonomous International Linking group and (c) the comments from Lawrence Murphy, representative from Forward Swindon.

Lawrence Murphy reported that there were areas where Forward Swindon could assist in developing economic links with twin towns and links although the focus of Forward Swindon was very much sector led rather than looking at links from a geographical point of view. He added that it was about managing expectations and that it may be possible to support specific projects within the resources available. Where resources were not available, advice could be given as to other organisations that may be in a better position to offer assistance.

Members of the Network felt that more could be done to educate officers, Councillors and members of the public on the benefits of twinning and of establishing economic links and the value that this can bring to Swindon. It was felt

that Swindon were missing out on a number of opportunities for inward investment and that, whilst there were grants available for a variety of initiatives, there appeared to be a lack of interest in pursuing these opportunities.

Members of the Network considered the proposal submitted by Bruce Clarke that support be given to David Martin's initiative to establish an independent International linking group whilst the Town Twinning network continues as the Borough's formal Town Twinning Committee. The independent group would report to the twinning meeting of any activities being undertaken. This proposal was agreed by the members of the Town Twinning Network.

David Martin advised that he was keen that the second International Youth Festival should be held in Swindon and members of the Network were keen to support the delivery of this project and asked for a progress report to be brought to the next meeting of the Network.

Resolved – That the Town Twinning Network (a) thank Lawrence Murphy from Forward Swindon for attending the meeting; (b) note the report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services; (c) request that the Director of Law and Democratic Services review the constitution of the Town Twinning Network; (d) support David Martin's initiative to establish a separate International group; and (e) request a progress report on the possibility of the second International Youth Festival coming to Swindon.

## **22. Reports from 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:

### **Nova Hreod School**

Tom Wilkes reported that Nova Hreod School would be sending a party of 3 staff to South Africa for one week from 23<sup>rd</sup> October who will be working at Harold Cressy School.

He also advised that one member of staff and six students from the school had participated in a very successful International conference that was held in Salzgitter during July.

### **Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association**

Councillor Small advised that he was considering an exchange between football referees in Salzgitter and those in Swindon during the football season.

### **Swindon Ocotat Link (SOL)**

Bruce Clarke advised that SOL had been unsuccessful in their bid for EU money as there were not enough partners involved in the bid. There had been the intention to bring 3 visitors over from Ocotat but, due to visa issues, only one visitor had been able to come to Swindon. Bruce added that SOL were currently revising the vision and objectives of the group and he would feed back on any progress at a future meeting of the Network.

## **Swindon Torun Link**

Mark Sarnowski reported that there had recently been a very successful visit to Torun of about 30 people and he advised that the Chamber of Commerce group were keen to visit Swindon. It was hoped that the photographic exhibition would take place during October and that this may be combined with inviting some runners from Torun to take part in the Bath half marathon.

Bruce Clarke added that 5 SOL members had joined the trip to Torun and were very impressed with the hospitality they had received and with the cultural and economic vibrance of Torun. He advised members of the Network that he would be bringing a proposal to the next meeting requesting that a formal twinning arrangement is made between Torun and Swindon.

A slide show of the visit to Torun was displayed at the end of the meeting by Bruce.

## **Highworth Twinning Association**

Derrick Gustafson reported that about 60 people would be visiting Pontorson from 23 – 26 October and that the Mayor would also be going as this was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning between Highworth and Swindon. In June 2011, visitors from Wassenberg would be invited over the Highworth and there would be another visit to Pontorson in May. He advised that Wassenberg were usually successful in obtaining EU grants and were able to help Highworth Twinning Association with their travel costs.

## **Chattanooga Friendship Link**

Andy Lane advised that a project was underway and that he would report on progress at a future meeting of the Network.

## **Geminid**

David Martin advised that Isambard School had been successful in receiving Comenius funding, although St Andrews School, whilst scoring highly on the application form, had been unsuccessful as the Head had not realised they had to send the form back in. He advised that there was the opportunity to put a bid in for the exchange of Local Authority officers, such as Museums staff in order to work to common strategies.

## **Disneyland**

Lawrence Murphy gave a brief overview of some of the initiatives being undertaken as part of this link and advised that the formal agreement with Disneyland would end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

## **23. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Town Twinning Network will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 at 6pm





## Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 1 Dec 2010

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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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010:

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link
- Wroughton-St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
- Highworth 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.

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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: 1 Dec 2010

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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).