

# Swindon Borough Council

## Town Twinning Network

**Wednesday, 28 March 2012**

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

**At 6.00 p.m.**

**Conservative  
Councillors**

Doreen Dart  
Raymond Fisher  
Brian Mattock  
David Wren

**Labour  
Councillors**

Kevin Small

**Liberal Democrat  
Councillors**

Stan Pajak

Roger Gower, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association  
Derrick Gustafson, Highworth 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. 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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

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

**Date of Despatch:** 15 March 2012

**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, 11 JANUARY 2012**

PRESENT:- Councillor Doreen Dart, Councillor Raymond Fisher, Councillor Kevin Small, Andy Lane (Chattanooga, USA) and Mary Creffield (Swindon Ocotal Link).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stan Pajak, Roger Gower, Derrick Gustafson, Mr Bruce Clarke, John Mayell and Hasan Nur.

**1. Appointment of Chair**

Resolved – that Councillor Doreen Dart be Chair of the Town Twinning Network until December 2012.

(Councillor Dart took the Chair)

**2. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

Resolved – that Andy Lane be Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network until December 2012.

**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. Councillor Kevin Small made a personal and prejudicial pecuniary declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 9 in his capacity as treasurer for the group applying for a Town Twinning Grant.

**4. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

**5. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011, be confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Schools and Twinning – Paddy Bradley (Director, Schools and Learning) circulated a list of those schools with International links. Members of the network thanked Paddy for this information and queried whether this information was made public to enable other groups interested in twinning to contact the relevant school. Following the meeting, Paddy responded that 'a number of the schools have the information on their websites. If it is not, other agencies could contact schools direct. It is information in the public domain.'

**6. 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 in Agenda Item 9 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 8 refers.)

## **7. 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 reports for the Town Twinning Associations and Links:-

### **Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association**

The Chair advised that Roger Gower was currently in hospital but that the next meeting would be held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7pm in the Civic Offices. Members of the Network asked for their best wishes to be forwarded onto Roger.

### **Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)**

Mary Creffield reported on the following activities:

- A successful quiz held in November had raised £500.
- A recent dinner held at a member's house had also raised £85.
- The next quiz would be held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at Cricklade Town Hall from 7pm – 11.30pm.
- Three members would be visiting Ocotal during March and April 2012.
- Still waiting to hear from King William School who had approached SOL with the intention of developing a link with a school in Ocotal.
- The membership fee was £5.
- Good support received from the Rotary Club and it had been agreed that a large amount of money raised during a recent fundraising event would be sent to Ocotal.
- The next meeting would be held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

### **Swindon Torun Link**

Representatives from the Swindon Film Festival had been put in touch with contacts from the international film festival, Tofifest, held in Torun every year. It was hoped that there would be some form of communication between the two before the next Swindon film festival which runs from 1 – 10 March 2012 and that they would be able to report any further development at the next meeting of the Network.

### **Highworth Twinning Association**

The Chair advised that Derrick Gustaffson was also in hospital but that he had submitted the following report:-

'The visit to us from Wassenberg was a great success with 31 Germans visiting including their Vice-Mayor. The charter was ratified in St. Michaels. Our AGM will be February 17<sup>th</sup>. We will visit Wassenberg 17 – 20 May. The date for a Pontorson visit has not yet been fixed. Personally, I do not intend to stand for re-election to our Committee. I would like to

thank you all for your friendship during our meetings over the last year or so. It has been a pleasure. I have not had enough time to find a substitute to attend this meeting, nor do I know who will attend in the future.'

Members of the Network expressed their sadness that Derrick would no longer be attending these meetings and also asked for their good wishes to be forwarded to Derrick for a speedy recovery.

## **Chattanooga**

Andy Lane reported that he was currently working on a business model that would enable a self-funded business trip to be undertaken, hopefully, later on this year. He added that he would contact the Chamber of Commerce and the Enterprise Board with regards to this trip.

## **8. Application for a Town Twinning Grant**

The network considered an application from the Even Swindon Working Men's Club Wednesday Skittles Team for a grant of £1000 to assist with the costs of a visit to Salzgitter following an invitation by members of the SV Salzgitter veteran football club for members of the club to visit Salzgitter and to play the football team at a game of 'kegeln', a German form of skittles.

Councillor Kevin Small explained the background to the invitation and outlined the details of the visit that had taken place from 1 – 5 December 2011.

Councillor Small left the meeting at this stage and took no further part in the discussions relating to this application.

Mark Feeny (Contracts and Commissioning Team) briefly summarised his reservations with regards to the grant application. Specifically, that it had not been received six weeks prior to the event taking place and advised that this would have been taken into consideration in a competitive market. Members of the Network agreed at this stage that they would consider this grant application but that any future applications would only be considered by the Network if they were received six weeks prior to the event taking place.

Resolved – (1) That the Town Twinning Network recommends to the Director of Law and Democratic Services that a grant of £500 be approved as a one-off cost towards the inaugural launch of the link between the Even Swindon Working Men's Club Wednesday Skittles Team and the SV Salzgitter veteran football club.

(2) That the Town Twinning Network would not consider any future Town Twinning grant applications unless they were received at least six weeks prior to the event taking place.

Councillor Kevin Small made a personal and prejudicial pecuniary declaration of interest in respect of the above item in his capacity as treasurer for the group applying for a Town Twinning Grant and left the meeting taking no part in the decision of the Network whether or not to support the application.

## **9. Date of next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Town Twinning Network would be moved from 14<sup>th</sup> March to Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in the Civic Offices.

## Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 28 March 2012

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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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012:

- 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.

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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: 28 March 2012

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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).