

# Swindon Borough Council

## Town Twinning Network

**Wednesday, 27 February 2013**

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

**At 6.00 p.m.**

### **Conservative Councillors**

Brian Mattock  
Michael Bray  
Richard Hurley

### **Labour Councillors**

Kevin Small  
Junab Ali  
John Ballman

Roger Gower, Swindon Salzgitter 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  
Derrick Gustafson, Highworth Twinning Association

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

Email: [alsmith@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:alsmith@swindon.gov.uk)

Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH  
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## **AGENDA**

### **PART 1 (PUBLIC ITEMS)**

**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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

**5. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public**

*Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the Town Twinning Network is, therefore, recommended to resolve "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 the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".*

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>

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

### **PART 2 (TO BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT)**

## **7. Application for a town twinning grant (Pages 7 - 22)**

**Date of Despatch:** 18 February 2013

**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, 5 DECEMBER 2012**

PRESENT:- Councillors Kevin Small (Chair) and Junab Ali; Roger Gower (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Andy Lane (Chattanooga, USA) and Derrick Gustafson (Highworth Twinning Association)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brian Mattock, Hasan Nur, Mark Sarnowski and Stephen Taylor.

**1. Appointment of Chair**

Resolved – That Councillor Kevin Small be Chair of the Town Twinning Network until December 2013.

(Councillor Small took the Chair.)

**2. Tribute to Councillor Dart**

The Chair and members of the Town Twinning Network paid tribute to Councillor Dart who died on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and acknowledged her commitment to town twinning in and around Swindon.

**3. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

Resolved – That Andy Lane be Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network until December 2013.

**4. 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.

**5. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

**6. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012, be confirmed as a correct record.

The Chair asked that the minutes from each meeting of the Town Twinning Network be forwarded on to Full Council in order to raise awareness of twinning activities amongst Councillors. This request would be forwarded on to the Committee and Member Services Manager.

**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 verbal reports from those Town Twinning Associations and Links present at the meeting:-

### **Swindon Ocotal Link**

Bruce Clarke reported that this had been their most successful year for fundraising and that the Emmanuel Church had raised over £3K which would be used to support a refuge for abused and expectant women. The Rotary club had also raised about £2.5K towards a disability centre in Ocotal. In total, about £5K had been raised to support projects such as an Old People's home, bursaries, health centre and basic medical support.

Patricio Marin, an artist from Ocotal, had recently visited Swindon to put on an open exhibition at Swindon Artsite. He also visited three schools and Lydiard Park Academy asked him to supply a mural which brought together the geography of Nicaragua and the history of Swindon. He also visited the Mayor's parlour, two other churches and Ken White, a Swindon based muralist.

The next trip to Ocotal would take place in 2014, at a cost of about £1500 for a 2 to 3 week trip.

### **Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association**

Roger Gower advised that he had contacted the Swindon Advertiser, the Link magazine and U3A to publicise the Association. An article had appeared in the Link magazine in December which attracted one person to join and a piece produced by U3A resulted in four people making enquiries, although they were not yet members. He had been unable to make any progress with the Swindon Advertiser and would try and find out why.

The membership was changing slightly and advice was being sought as to how to attract younger members. Next year's visit was planned for 29<sup>th</sup> May to 5th June and the programme was currently being put together and an application would be submitted to the Council for a Town Twinning grant.

Roger asked for access to the Council's website in order to publicise the Association and the clerk agreed to find out more information about whether this was possible.

### **Chattanooga**

Andy Lane reported that American twinning was about business rather than developing friendship links and that there was a need to find a link between the two towns. The Chair advised that he would arrange a meeting between Andy and Forward Swindon who had a responsibility for economic development in Swindon.

### **Highworth Twinning Association**

Derrick Gustafson reported on the following activities:-

- Fundraising quiz on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at the Scout hall.
- AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

- Europe Day (when Wassenberg will visit Pontorson from 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013). It was unlikely that Highworth would visit Pontorson at this time as it was not a school holiday or half-term. A date for the visit to Pontorson was still under discussion.
- No date yet arranged for the visit to Wassenberg next year (alternate years). Wassenberg have been invited to visit Highworth in October 2013, although a date has not yet been confirmed.
- No date has yet been set for Pontorson to visit Highworth.

## **8. Cabinet minute on Town Twinning Review**

Members of the Town Twinning Network considered the minute from the Cabinet meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 on the review of town twinning. The Chair advised that he was at the Cabinet meeting and that he had presented the following three challenges to Cabinet Members:

- The need to show leadership
- More commitment from senior officers
- Using Forward Swindon to consider the economic side of twinning.

He added that Cabinet were supportive of the report and the need to raise awareness of twinning activities. Bruce Clarke suggested that there was a need to move beyond the term 'twinning' and that there was a substantial amount of International links being made through schools. The Chair proposed that an event could be held to which schools would be invited in order to promote twinning further. It was agreed that Paddy Bradley would be invited to the next meeting to discuss this proposal further.

There was also a need to ensure that the town twinning network meeting dates were put into the diaries of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to encourage their attendance and involvement in twinning activities.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Town Twinning Network would be held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 6pm.

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## Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

### Town Twinning Network

Date: 27 February 2013

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Author:	Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

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#### 1. Purpose and Reasons

1.1 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 held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012:-

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

1.2 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 areas of good practice.

#### 2. Recommendations

The Town Twinning Network is recommended to:

2.1 Note the activities of the Twinning Associations and Links.

#### 3. Detail

3.1 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.

3.2 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.

3.3 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, Direct Dial 463612, [alsmith@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:alsmith@swindon.gov.uk).

# Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 27 February 2013

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## 4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options.

## 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 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 and Human Rights Implications

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

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 This report has no specific implications relating to staff, sustainability, health, rural, crime and disorder.

### Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 There are no specific links between Town Twinning and One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies.

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report. This is because it relates to verbal updates from Town Twins and Links present at the meeting, with no changes to staffing, budget or service eligibility criteria.

### Risk Management

- 5.6 A risk assessment has not been undertaken.

## 6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## 7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

## 8. Appendices

- 8.1 None
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Alison Smith, Direct Dial 463612, [alsmith@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:alsmith@swindon.gov.uk).

## Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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