

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 5 June 2013

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Michael Bray
Mike Bawden
Toby Elliott

Labour Councillors

Kevin Small
Junab Ali
Abdul Amin

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

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 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2013.

5. Involvement of Schools and Young People in Twinning activities (Pages 5 - 8)

6. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 9 - 10)

7. Dates of future meetings

Future meetings of the Town Twinning Network have been agreed as:-

25th September 2013 at 6pm

4th December 2013 at 6pm

2nd April 2014 at 6pm

Date of Despatch: 31 May 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, 27 FEBRUARY 2013

PRESENT:- Councillors Kevin Small (Chair), Junab Ali and Richard Hurley; Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Andy Lane (Chattanooga, USA), Derrick Gustafson (Highworth Twinning Association), Peter Mallinson (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association) and Hasan Nur (Somali).

Apologies for absence were received from Roger Gower, John Mayell, Councillor Brian Mattock, Councillor John Ballman and Councillor Michael Bray.

10. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. Councillors Kevin Small and Junab Ali made personal declarations of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 7 in their capacity as members of the Salzgitter Twinning Association and therefore did not participate in the voting on the grant application from the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association.

11. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

12. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising – Minute No. 6 - the request for the minutes of the Town Twinning Network meetings to be forwarded onto Full Council will be considered by the Corporate Governance Review Working Group on 7th March.

13. 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 7 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 15 refers.)

14. 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 Salzgitter Twinning Association

Peter Mallinson advised that work was currently underway to organise the programme for the visit to Swindon by a group from Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft, Salzgitter from 29 May to 5 June 2013. Social evenings and business meetings were also being held.

The Chair advised that he would be participating in a Civic Twinning visit to Salzgitter leaving on 28th February 2013, along with the Mayor and Mayoress of Swindon, Councillors Amin and Richards. He added that a PDF booklet had been produced of his visit with the skittles team in 2012 and that he would let the Association have a copy.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Bruce Clarke advised that SOL were scaling back their activities. A link had been established with Lydiard Park Academy and two people had joined SOL from the Academy. Jake the Juggler would be visiting Ocotal for three months with a view to teaching them circus skills. The assessment centre for disability and access needs was the first one established in Nicaragua and the Emmanuel Church had raised £3,200 to support a project for women facing abuse/pregnancy and the first 30 women had participated in the project. SOL meet every other month.

Chattanooga

Andy Lane reported that he had met with Phil Young from Forward Swindon and that consideration was being given as to the viability of taking business delegates over to Chattanooga. Andy would also be talking to the two MP's next month in order to promote twinning activities in general. Andy was very positive about the progress that was being made.

Highworth Twinning Association

Derrick Gustafson circulated a newsletter that had been produced outlining the activities of the Association. Only 20 people turned up for the quiz which was disappointing and it had been agreed that Highworth would not be visiting Pontorson at the same time as the Germans. The AGM would be held on 15th March in the Community Room, Highworth Offices.

Somali

Hasan Nur reported that a new Mayor and Council had recently been elected. A letter had been received from the previous Mayor regarding a friendship link with Swindon and it was agreed that the clerk, in consultation with the Chair, would ensure that a response was sent from the Mayor of Swindon.

15. Involvement of Schools and Young People in Twinning Activities

Paddy Bradley (Head of Commissioning – Economy/Attainment) attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of young people becoming more involved in twinning activities. There were potential opportunities relating to the University Technical College, due to open in 2014, which had close links with Germany, the

involvement of young people, not linked to schools, in the various twinning projects and the possibility of new investment relating to the Chattanooga Link in the form of a virtual dragons den.

Paddy added that schools already had their own links and that the Network would need to make links with the Head Teachers Association in order to seek their participation. Bruce Clarke added that there was the opportunity to involve schools in Civic links and to promote the role of the Council and Mayor amongst young people. Members of the Network also felt that it would be useful to visit schools to find out more about their links. It was agreed that Paddy would develop a strategy on how the Network could engage with schools on Town Twinning and bring it to the next meeting.

Resolved – (1) That Paddy Bradley be thanked for attending the meeting.

(2) That Paddy Bradley develop a strategy on how the Town Twinning Network could engage with schools on Twinning activities and bring it to the next meeting.

16. Application for a town twinning grant

Peter Mallinson explained that the application for a Town Twinning grant of £1000 was to assist with the costs of a cultural visit to Swindon by a group from Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft from 29th May to 5th June 2013 and briefly outlined the programme planned for the visit.

Peter confirmed that the total cost for the visit was £2063 and that the costs for 10 guests from Salzgitter amounted to £1101. Any deficit would be paid for by members of the Association and host families would pick up any costs relating to guests staying in their homes. He added that transport costs were included as this was a reciprocal arrangement with Salzgitter who always ensured that visitors from Swindon were transported to and from the airport.

Resolved – That the Town Twinning Network recommends to the Director of Law and Democratic Services that a grant of £1000 be approved to assist with the costs of a cultural visit to Swindon by a group from Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft from 29th May until 5th June 2013.

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Agenda Item 5 Involvement of Schools and Young People in Twinning Activities

Town Twinning Network

Date: 5 June 2013

Author: Head of Commissioning: Economy and Attainment

Wards affected: All

Localities affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report is presented to the Swindon Borough Council Town Twinning Network in response to a request from the Network at its meeting on 27 February 2013 (Minute 15 refers).
- 1.2 The report describes a proposal to enable members of the Town Twinning Network to learn more about approaches taken by schools in Swindon to twinning. It also seeks to provide an opportunity for the Town Twinning Network to develop its approach to engagement with young people.

2. Recommendations

The Town Twinning Network is recommended to:

- 2.1 establish a task and finish group to visit three Secondary and three Primary schools in Swindon;
- 2.2 receive a report from the task and finish group on its learning from the visits and its recommendations for the future development of the Network.

3. Detail

- 3.1 Members of the Town Twinning Network received information at their meeting on 11 January 2012 about the number and range of international links established by schools.
- 3.2 As of January 2012, 54% of schools (42 schools) had links. There were 98 established international links to 33 countries. France was very clearly the most popular link (22 contacts), followed by Spain (8), Germany (7), Japan, South Africa, Italy (6) and Poland (5). There were 18 countries with one link to a Swindon school.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Paddy Bradley on 01793 465744 or email pbradley@swindon.gov.uk

Involvement of Schools and Young People in Twinning Activities

Town Twinning Network

Date: 5 June 2013

- 3.3 12 Primary schools and three Secondary schools had achieved the full international school award in recognition of their work towards greater international understanding. Three further Primary schools were applying for the full award.
- 3.4 Schools establish links with schools in other countries for a range of reasons. These include:
- to meet the needs of the curriculum;
 - to enhance a particular aspect of learning, for example, foreign language and humanities;
 - personal contact;
 - charitable aims.
- 3.5 In both Primary and Secondary schools the curriculum need is frequently to support foreign language acquisition or, more likely in the case of Primary schools, driven by a desire to widen the perspective of the children. The links are sometimes enhanced by charitable giving.
- 3.6 In order to increase their understanding of the mechanics and the level of sustainability of schools' international links, members of the Town Twinning Network could establish a task and finish group to visit three Secondary and three Primary schools. The schools approached could come from the schools that had achieved the full international school award. The visit to each school could include discussions with the member of staff responsible for the links, a senior member of staff to understand the strategic importance of the provision and a group of students who have participated in a link.
- 3.7 A reasonable timeframe for the task and finish group to operate is from June until November 2013, with a report to the Network on 4 December 2013.
- 3.8 Officers of Swindon Borough Council are able to provide some support to the group, specifically around arranging the meetings and formulating a structure to help gather information.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Paddy Bradley on 01793 465744 or email pbradley@swindon.gov.uk

Involvement of Schools and Young People in Twinning Activities

Town Twinning Network

Date: 5 June 2013

- 3.9 The discussions with students will be important to ascertain the impact of links and the level of enthusiasm of the young people. Such information would be very useful to help the Town Twinning Network to develop its future strategy to engage young people in a sustainable process of international links through twinning.

Alternative Options

Not applicable

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

There are no direct financial or procurement implications relating to this report. Any future activity that has financial implications would be subject to a separate report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies

The Council is committed to ensuring the right skills for the right jobs are in the right places. Town twinning activities contribute to the education and skills of young people and support efforts to compete for jobs in a growing economy.

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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Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 5 June 2013

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

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 27th February 2013:-

- 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.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Alison Smith, Direct Dial 463612, alsmith@swindon.gov.uk.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 5 June 2013

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

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Alison Smith, Direct Dial 463612, alsmith@swindon.gov.uk.