

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 8 October 2014

Function Room, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Michael Bray
Toby Elliott
Andrew Bennett

Labour Councillors

Kevin Small (Chair)
Abdul Amin
Junab Ali

Liberal Democrat Councillors

Mark Sarnowski, Swindon Torun Link
Hassan Nur, Salahley, Somalialand
Roger Gower, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
Mr Bruce Clarke, Swindon Ocotal Link
Mike Ide, Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
John Mayell, Swindon Ocotal Link
Derrick Gustafson, Highworth Twinning Association
Nazma Ramruttun, Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning

Committee Officer: Stuart Figini (Telephone 01793 463612)

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Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH
(Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Vice-Chair

2. Apologies for Absence

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2014.

6. Swindon Salzgitter Twinning - 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Report to be circulated.

7. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 5 - 8)

Date of Despatch: 30 September 2014

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, 18 JUNE 2014

PRESENT:- Eileen Mochan (Ocotol Link), Roger Gower (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Abdul Amin, Councillor Andrew Bennett, Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning) and Councillor Junab Ali

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Sarnowski, Hassan Nur, Mr Bruce Clarke, Mike Ide, John Mayell, Councillor Michael Bray, Derrick Gustafson and Councillor Toby Elliott

40. Appointment of Chair

Resolved:

That Councillor Kevin Small be appointed Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

41. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved:

That Eileen Mochan be appointed Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

42. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman reminded members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. There were no declarations.

43. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

44. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

45. Town Twinning Network - Updates

The Director of Law and Democratic Services gave an update on the following issues that were considered by the Town Twinning Network at its last meeting on 2 April 2014:

- Town Twinning Grant Applications consultation on whether the definition of 'Cultural Activities' should be included in the future assessment of Town Twinning Grants, copy of the definition attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

- Requests to Cabinet for Town Twinning activity and Swindon/Salzgitter 40th Anniversary celebrations budgetary provision

The Network were informed that following the consultation with both Councillors and organisations connected to the network, the overwhelming majority who responded supported the use of the definition. In light of the outcome of the consultation the Chair suggested that the Network agree to include the definition in the future assessment of Town Twinning Grants.

The Network was also reminded that they had made two budgetary requests for consideration of Cabinet. The first request related to a 'one-off' budget of £10,000 to be administered by the Town Twinning Network to support Town Twinning Activities over the next 3-5 years. The second request related to a 'one-off' budget to support the 40th Anniversary celebrations during 2015 of the Swindon/Salzgitter Town Twinning Link. Both requests were scheduled for consideration by Cabinet on 25 June 2014.

Resolved:

1. That the results and outcomes of the Town Twinning Grant Applications consultation be noted.
2. That the Network endorse the definition of 'Cultural Activities', as detailed in Appendix A of these minutes for use in the consideration of Town Twinning Grant applications.
3. That consideration of the Networks budgetary requests by Cabinet at their meeting on 25 June 2014 be noted.
4. That the Cabinet decision from its meeting held on 25 June 2014 be circulated to the Network.

46. 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

Roger Gower reported on a number of recent events as detailed below:

- Five members of the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association had visited Salzgitter between 11th– 18th June 2014. Marion Jefferies spoke in detail about the visit and the importance of continuing the twinning link between Swindon and Salzgitter.
- The Association were starting to lay the foundations for the 40th Anniversary celebrations in 2015.

It was suggested that the Lord Lieutenant and High Sherriff be invited to celebrate the 40th Anniversary celebrations, especially when the Salzgitter Twinning Association visited Swindon.

Swindon Ocotal Link

Eileen Mochan reported that a number of successful fundraising events had taken place with a further event planned for 17 August 2014.

Swindon Mauritius Friendship Link

Nazma Ramruttun spoke about a number of successful events that the former and current Mayors of the Council attended. The Network was also informed of a need to heighten the awareness within the Council of the work undertaken between Swindon and the Mauritius Friendship Link. The Chair agreed that a briefing note about the work of the Town Twinning Network would be circulated to all Councillors.

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Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 8 October 2014

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 18 June 2014:-

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link
- Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
- Highworth Twinning Association
- Mauritius Friendship Twinning
- Salahley, Somalialand
- 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.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stuart Figini, Direct Dial 463612, sfigini@swindon.gov.uk.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 8 October 2014

- 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.

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
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stuart Figini, Direct Dial 463612, sfigini@swindon.gov.uk.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 8 October 2014

8. Appendices

8.1 None

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