

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

THURSDAY, 20TH MAY, 2004

PRESENT:- David Cox in the Chair; Councillor Ian Dobie, David Martin and Peter Mallinson (Salzgitter Twinning Association), Mark Sarnowski (Torun Link), Karen Mayell and Rita Heads (Ocotal Link), Simon Birch (Chief Executive), Phil Eagle (La Garenne Link) and Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Doreen Dart, David Glaholm, Stan Pajak and Philip Steele; Bruce Clarke and Reg Clarke.

74. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved – (1) That, subject to the inclusion of Peter Mallinson's concerns regarding the dual role of Bruce Clarke as both a Council Officer and Chairman of Swindon Ocotal link on the Network, the minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2004, be confirmed.

Matters Arising

Minute 64 (2) – The current amount available for Town Twinning grants is £11,210.

Minute 65 (1) – Simon Birch (Chief Executive) reported on the outcome of a meeting held between himself and the three Group Leaders regarding Twinning. All three Leaders are very supportive of Twinning and committed to allocating more Officer time to Town Twinning activities. It had been agreed that Daryl Jones (Senior Economic Development Officer) would spend one to one and a half days per month on Twinning and an additional post was being appointed to which would also have some dedicated time towards Twinning activities.

Resolved – That Simon Birch would confirm this in writing to the Network.

75. Availability of funding for work and youth exchanges

Daryl Jones outlined some of the programmes that were available for work and youth exchanges which had been accessed in the past and which were match funded by the Council. Councillor Glaholm had requested further information at the previous meeting on the actual amounts of funding that the Council allocated to these programmes and Daryl agreed to bring this information to a future meeting.

Resolved - That a report be brought to each annual meeting of the Network in November outlining how often these programmes are accessed, the level of funding that the Council allocates to these programmes and how much this generates in matched funding.

76. Update on Conference Programme for 2004

David Martin confirmed that he had spoken with Bruce Clarke regarding the organisation of a conference in October and that they had agreed to go ahead with the twinning conference as outlined by David. He confirmed that he would welcome

any ideas, suggestions or input into the organisation of this conference. A conference run by the Swindon Learning Partnership, under the theme of “citizenship” would be run later on in the year. Invitations have already been sent to all those people who participated in last year’s conference and the Council will be applying to the European Commission for funding to support the conference. 25 – 30 overseas guests will be accommodated at the IBIS hotel and support for their travel is dependent on this European funding being secured. Although formal invitations had only been sent out to dignitaries in Salzgitter, no one would be excluded from attending the event.

£5,000 has been allocated for the exhibition, which will be mounted inside a professional shell within STEAM and each Twinning and Link organisation will be approached individually in order to contribute to this exhibition. This event will be publicised widely.

77. Report from Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Peter Mallinson reported that they were looking forward to an 8-day trip in Salzgitter during the last week of May. A reporter from the Evening Advertiser would be accompanying them on this trip and it was hoped that some good publicity would be generated as a result.

78. Report from Swindon Ocotal Link

Karen Mayell reported on a number of initiatives from the Swindon Ocotal Link:

- Venture scouts will visit Ocotal in July for 3 weeks to help with the re-building of the school;
- Eco-trip has been organised for November. 8 people are currently booked on the trip, although 10 people are needed to make the trip viable;
- Headlands School has approached SOL about the possibility of sending children over to Ocotal next year as part of their Citizenship programme.

79. Report from Swindon Torun Link

Mark Sarnowski updated the Network on the following:

- The Deputy Mayor and Sam Jackson (Chamber of Commerce) visited Torun as part of the celebration to mark Poland’s accession to the European Union.
- Trainees from Torun Electricity Company to work at Swindon RWE Innogy Company.
- European Year of Education through sport 2004 – Swindon Cricket Club and St Joseph’s School teaching cricket in Torun
- Oxford International Celebration of sport – opportunity to invite Torun Ice Hockey team to come to Swindon for a visit and match.
- Five young people have been invited to take part in a canoeing rally along the river Drweca in Torun.
- Possibility of a Torun-Swindon speedway match
- International Challenge day 26th May – Torun are challenging Swindon.

- Torun University has applied for student work placements in Swindon using EU funding.
- Keen in Polish Education on dictation tests – launching a competition and the prize is a trip to Swindon. Maybe schools in Swindon might be interested in participating in something similar – Daryl Jones will pass the information on to the schools.

80. Report from La Garenne Link

Phil Eagle reported that there had not been much progress recently. He will be visiting La Garenne for his holiday and is hoping that he will have more idea then about how this link will progress. Phil added that he appreciated the support of the Network and understood that it does take time before these links are established.

81. Update on Council Twinning Projects

Daryl Jones reported that he would like to organise another trip for trainees to visit Salzgitter as this exchange worked well last year. He will also try to recruit for the Eco-trip to Ocotal.

82. Dates of Next Meeting

The dates of future meetings were agreed as:

Thursday, 29th July at 6pm

Thursday 9th September at 6pm

Thursday, 25th November at 6pm

Tuesday, 18th January 2005 at 6pm

Tuesday, 22nd March 2005 at 6pm

83. Grant Application – Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Due to the low number of Council Members present, this item was deferred until the next meeting of the Network.

