

Update to Town Twinning Committee on establishing an autonomous International Linking group

September 2010

Further to the last paper presented at the last town Twinning Committee

From information forwarded from Cllr Doreen Dart following a meeting with the Borough Solicitor it appears that the Borough is required to have a committee structure to report on formal twinning links that Swindon Borough Council have undertaken or is considering.

In addition David Martin has initiated an International Exchange Group that is open to any group that has international exchange interests. This group met on 15th September. The group is being brought together under the Geminid Organisation and will report at the next Town Twinning meeting.

Taking both these items into account it is proposed that support be given David Martin's Initiative to establish an independent group that maintains a strong relationship with the Borough especially with regard to European funding applications.

In the meantime the Town Twinning network continues as the Borough's formal Town Twinning committee.

This enables those parties that want to push ahead with exchange activities and promote other forms of linking, such as we see between schools and businesses. The difference is the ability to act without the formal structures required of a Borough committee whilst at the same time ensuring the civic issues relating to the Borough and the role of the Mayor are preserved.

The new group will be able to report at twinning meetings of activities being under taken.

This proposal has not been agreed with David Martin or Andy Lane and is at this stage an early proposal.

Bruce Clarke

Chair Swindon Ocotal Link