

## **TOWN TWINNING NETWORK**

**WEDNESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2014**

**PRESENT:-** Roger Gower (Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association), John Mayell (Swindon Ocotal Link), Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Abdul Amin, Councillor Andrew Bennett, Councillor Junab Ali, Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link) and Cecilia Olley (Swindon Ocotal Link)

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Sarnowski, Hassan Nur, Mike Ide, Councillor Michael Bray, Councillor Toby Elliott, Nazma Ramruttun and Richard Pearce

### **47. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

#### **Resolved:**

That Councillor Andrew Bennett be appointed Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

### **48. 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.

### **49. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

### **50. Minutes**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **51. Swindon Salzgitter Twinning - 40th Anniversary Celebrations**

The Network considered an update report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services about arrangements to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swindon/Salzgitter Town Twinning link in 2015.

Members were informed that the previous request for a 'one-off' budget to support the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was declined by Cabinet at its meeting held on 25 June 2014 as there was a lack of detailed financial information on which the Cabinet could base a decision.

The report highlighted the discussions held with various Heads of Service Areas within the Council and the possible options open to the Council to become involved with the celebrations. Appendix A of the report detailed the proposed events with costings where appropriate which would complement the events planned by the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association as detailed at Appendix B of the report.

The Network was informed that since the report was prepared a number of events and new ideas had been included in the proposals, which included revised and updated costs.

It was proposed that the Twinning celebrations and the Swindon 175 celebrations taking place in 2015 could be linked, especially as Salzgitter had a similar railway heritage as Swindon.

**Resolved:**

1. That the proposed events and ideas, detailed at Appendix A to these minutes be supported.
2. That additional events, once evaluated, be added to those identified in Appendix A.
3. That the Cabinet be asked to approve a 'one-off' budget up to £10,000 to fund the Council promoted events detailed at Appendix A to these minutes to ensure that Swindon Borough Council has the capacity of marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations during 2015 of the Swindon/Salzgitter Town Twinning link and to continue promoting healthy international links.
4. That the Town Twinning Network continues to explore funding streams to offset the 'one-off' budget requested at 3 above.

**52. 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:

- A draft programme of events had been prepared for the Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Link 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2015. Included in the programme was a visit to Arkells Brewery and a local fire station. It was anticipated that the Mayor would attend at least one of the events in the programme. The programme had been published earlier than normal so that the Associations events would be complimented by any Council run events
- The Associations AGM was due to be held on 17 October 2014.
- The Association had commissioned a new website which should be ready to launched in the new year
- The German student being hosted by members of the Association was nearing the end of her 3 month stay in Swindon

**Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)**

John Mayell reported on the following:

- A number of changes to the Swindon Ocotal Link representatives on the Town Twinning Network. Eileen Mochan had withdrawn her involvement with SOL and the Network for personal reasons. John Mayell and Bruce Clarke had been replaced as representatives by Cristina Bennett and Cecilia Olley.
- Held a successful duck race on 17 August 2014. The Mayor was in

attendance and the event raised £1400

- The SOL AGM was due to be held on 13 November 2014
- A new website for SOL was now available at [www.solswindon.co.uk](http://www.solswindon.co.uk)

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## Appendix A

<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Indicative cost</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>
German Style Market – Initial discussions held with inSwindon about the type of markets available including German food, Arts and craft and seasonal.	Potentially cost neutral
Display's in various town centre locations of material already available and held by the Council and Twinning Association, promoting the history and international links with Salzgitter. Locations could include - Brunel Plaza/Library/Museum/Civic Offices.	Potentially cost neutral – Officer time
Schools event – Concert and raising the awareness of the international link – Waiting for responses	500.00
Youth Service led exchange – Waiting for a response	1500.00
Visit of Salzgitter delegation to Swindon to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a celebration dinner with an invite to the German Ambassador – 30 invites at £30 a head</li> <li>• to present a commemorative gift,</li> <li>• New Coat of Arms for Salzgitter Council</li> </ul>	900.00  200.00 500.00
Members visit to Salzgitter - To be funded from the Mayoral Town Twinning budget	2700.00
Media awareness campaign provided by Comms	Officer time only
Salzgitter visit to Swindon (Civic visit)	2800.00
12 months of German themed food events at Council offices – Possible ideas – throughout the coming year In House Catering would add a theme to the catering area (Hut 8) with some striking decoration to act as continual visual reminder of this significant year, linked in with German themed menu items running each month supported with events such as Cheese tasting with German regional cheeses, Cake tasting (superb chocolate) and bringing in some German branded soft drinks and snacks as a point of difference. Picking a good week in the summer In House Catering could host a German themed BBQ outside for the staff and invited guests. This can all be building up to a larger Oktoberfest event. Costs to the Council would include décor and point of sale	500.00

over 52 weeks. Investment would be matched by In House Catering.	
Support for Swindon/Salzgitter Link Association awareness, promotion and exchange	900.00
Swindon Salzgitter Website	100.00
New bench plaque in the Town Gardens, Old Town	300.00
GWR 175 Celebration (rail link) and joint celebrations at STEAM	To be identified
Oktoberfest as a German awareness event	To be identified
Total	10900.00