

Twining committee

Date: Thursday, 14 March 2024

Time: 16:00

Venue: Mancroft room, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH

Committee members:

Councillor Wright (Lord Mayor)
Councillor Sands (M) (vice chair)
Councillor Catt
Councillor Galvin
Councillor Peek
Councillor Thomas (Vi)

Bob Young (Koblenz)
Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)
Doug Underwood (Novi Sad)
Bert Bremner (Rouen)
Alan Waters (Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau)
Chairman (Norfolk County Council)
(ex officio)

For further information please contact:

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Agenda

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2 Declarations of interest	
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To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2023.	
4 Twinning fund - Update	7 - 14
Purpose - To provide a financial update to the twinning committee.	
5 Reports from the Twinning Associations	
To receive reports from the twinning associations:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association • Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association • Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association • Norwich and Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship Link	

Date of publication: **Wednesday, 06 March 2024**



Twinning committee

16:00 to 16:50

19 October 2023

Present: Councillors Wright (chair), Sands (M) (vice chair), Everett (substitute for Thomas (Vi)), Peek and Schmierer (substitute for Catt) and Bob Young (Koblenz), Doug Underwood (Novi Sad), Bert Bremner (Rouen) and Alan Waters (Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau).

Apologies: Councillors Catt, Galvin and Thomas (Vi) and Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023.

3. Twinning fund – Update

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. He highlighted that the twinning fund had a healthy amount within it and encouraged the associations to make grant applications. These could be recommended for approval at a committee meeting or if the period between meetings was too long this could be done by members of the committee via email. This included for the planned international junior football tournament. He reminded representatives from the associations to send photographs and text for twinning boards to the committee officer. The friendship charter between Norwich and Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau would be signed in late October or early November by the Lord Mayor. To pay for the charter to be printed and framed he was requesting the committee to consider recommending for approval to the interim chief finance officer (s151 officer) the spend of £44 from the twinning fund for this. The committee supported recommending this for approval.

The Lord Mayor commented that the funds provided by the committee to fund events could be very important and impactful.

A member commented that they had received an email to ask for the council to explore setting up a twinning link with Suzhou in China. The democratic and elections manager said that this email had been received by the Lord Mayor and the leader of the council. The council needed to consider which cities it was twinned with to ensure that it reflected the values of the council.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) note the twinning fund financial position; and
- 2) recommend to the interim chief finance officer (s151) the approval of the spend of £44 from the twinning fund to pay for the printing and framing of the friendship charter between Norwich and the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people

4. Reports of the twinning associations

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Bob Young updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association (NNKFA). The association had held a Heavenly Gardens walk which started in the twinning garden and had visited a number of different gardens across the city, this trip had ended with coffee and cake in the Birton Arms. The Southern Comfort trip had been held in the summer and had been successful, this had started in Horning and sailed around the boards. This had been hosted with the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association and the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association. The annual lunch had been held at the Oaklands Hotel and feedback had been positive. An upcoming event for the association was a visit to a Dementia Café in Sprowston. The association had visited in 2022 to share knowledge and hold a workshop to make advent rings. This had been very successful so had been invited to attend in 2023. There would be an Advent evening in the Norwich Cathedral Refectory in December to celebrate Christmas.

The NNKFA were also involved with the international junior football tournament. The local council in Koblenz were enthusiastic about the international junior football tournament but concerns had been raised by the local schools. The association had been contacted by the City of Norwich School (CNS) for help with establishing links with a school in Koblenz to exchange letters and explore future exchanges. The Lord Mayor commented that links between schools were important even if there are no formal associations. Bob Young said that options were being explored whether the association in Koblenz could continue.

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Doug Underwood provided an update on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association. He thanked the democratic and elections manager for his work supporting the committee and the association as he would shortly be leaving the council. A newsletter had been circulated within the agenda. The annual lunch had been held at the George Hotel had had positive feedback. He highlighted that the donation to the Milan Petrovic School had facilitated the school to refurbish their conference hall. This donation had been raised through the Paul Cross Memorial Concert and raffles held throughout the year.

The connection in Novi Sad had been a more informal than the other associations, however due to the deaths of key members within Novi Sad the association was looking at ensuring that they had appropriate contacts with the local government in Novi Sad. Fostering other contacts was also important including schools such as the Milan Petrovic School.

A provisional date for June 2024 had been set for the annual Paul Cross Memorial Concert but dates and venues were still being explored. Due to the increasing costs of both venues and transport for performers it was possible that the concert could be held outside Norwich. Members suggested a number of alternative venues such as City Hall, schools within Norwich and the new location of the Soul Church. The democratic and elections manager reminded the association that they could make a grant application to help support the costs of the event.

Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

Bert Bremner updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association. An update had been circulated to the committee via email before the start of the meeting. The news section of the association's website contained more details and photographs of the trip to Rouen. The association had celebrated Bastille Day in July 2023, in spite of the weather. There had also been a picnic in Eaton Park in August 2023. The association were hoping that these events would become an annual event to attract visitors. He highlighted the upcoming events that the association would be hosting, including a film evening in October and the association's annual lunch. There was a planned visit from Rouen for July 2024. Events had also taken place in Rouen, including a charity cycle trip to Rouen and a film festival that would be taking place in November in Rouen entitled "This is England". This demonstrated the strong links between Norwich and Rouen. In regard to the junior football tournament, it was noted that some issues with getting Rouen school involved was due to the requirement for passports and visas for the students which could prove cost prohibitive.

He highlighted that the link would be celebrating 70 years in 2029 and the association was hoping to rebuild links between industries as had been the case in 1959. Visits between the cities was key to keeping links active. The Lord Mayor echoed the importance of visits between the cities for all ages.

Norwich and Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship Link

Alan Waters provided an update of the Norwich and Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship Link. The signed twinning charter would be circulated to different tiers of government both in the UK and in Brazil to highlight the link between Norwich and the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people. This was important for the group to raise their profile. The area of the rainforest that the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau occupied is around the same size of Belgium. Some of that area had been encroached by the previous Brazilian President. Alan Waters was working with a professor of social anthropology from the UEA to drive the link forward. The focus would be on knowledge exchange and education. A constitution was being drafted based on the constitutions of the other twinning associations to establish membership. He was working on a website and had a number of expressions of interest to manage this and join the group. There was a possibility of working with the Norwich Climate Commission.

The Lord Mayor commented that it was positive to see the link develop as a two-way partnership. A member commented that the Welcome to Norwich signs would need to be updated to reflect the new friendship link. The democratic and elections manager said that it would need to be clarified who would be responsible for new signs.

A member suggested that the website for the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau should detail some of the fauna and flora found within the rainforest as this could be an interest point for members of the public. Alan Waters commented that a film had been produced “The Territory” which had been circulated to members of the council when the friendship link had been established. He would circulate this to members of the twinning committee, alongside other information about the group.

RESOLVED to note the updates of the associations.

CHAIR



Committee Name: Twinning
Committee Date: 14/03/2024
Report Title: Twinning fund –Update

Portfolio: Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

Report from: Interim head of legal and procurement

Wards: All wards

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose:

To provide a financial update to the twinning committee.

Recommendation:

To:

- 1) note the twinning fund financial position; and
- 2) consider a twinning grant application from the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association.

Policy Framework

The Council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report helps to meet the corporate priorities of Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city and people live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.

Report

1. The balance of the Twinning Fund on 14 March will be £5,065.97
2. This includes the council's annual twinning contribution of £2,060 for the current financial year.
3. The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association have received a grant of £400 for the annual Paul Cross Memorial Concert.
4. The committee have also agreed, in principle to recommend to the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), the annual grant of £200 to each of the following twinning association:
 - a. Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association
 - b. Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association
 - c. Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association
5. A grant application has also been received from the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association for £1280, to help with the costs of the football tournament that will be hosted by the Cringleford Junior Football Club. The committee will need to consider whether to recommend this to the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) for approval.
6. The twinning associations are encouraged to submit applications to the committee for consideration for any events planned.
7. Members of the committee are reminded that grant applications from twinning associations are made by completing a grant application form which is sent to democratic services. Any applications are then considered by the twinning committee. The committee will recommend any agreed grants to the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) for approval.
8. At its meeting in October 2022, the twinning committee recommended using the twinning fund to purchase new twinning boards to be displayed in the civic corridor at City Hall. The cost for 5 new boards was estimated at £150 and these costs have been approved. Democratic services encourages the associations to bring forward their wording and artwork. We will start the work removing the old boards shortly.
9. The friendship link between Norwich and Uru-Eu-Wau Wau indigenous people based in Rondônia, Brazil has been established. The agreement was signed by the Lord Mayor and an appropriate location for this to be hung is being sought.
10. The council has been in contact with the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association about a football tournament including clubs from Rouen and Norfolk. The event is being held at Easton College. The association is very welcome to make a grant application to the committee to help support the event.

Consultation

11. There has been no consultation on this report.

Implications

Financial and Resources

12. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan and Budget.

13. The report sets out the financial position of the twinning fund. Any grant applications will be considered within existing budgets.

Legal

14. There are no legal implications within this report.

Statutory Considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	None
Health, Social and Economic Impact	None
Crime and Disorder	None
Children and Adults Safeguarding	None
Environmental Impact	None

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

15. The twinning committee is invited to note the financial position to enable grant applications to be considered throughout the year.

Background papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Twinning Grant Application Form

Contact Officer: Leonie Burwitz, committee officer

Telephone number: 01603 989255

Email address: leonieburwitz@norwich.gov.uk



Application for Twinning Committee Grant

The aims of the Twinning Committee are to "promote and foster Civic links and exchange activities of all kinds with Rouen, Novi Sad and Koblenz and any other towns and cities abroad with which friendly associations are, from time to time, established". The policy of the Committee is to concentrate on making grants to assist visits by young people (excluding regular school exchanges), an initial visit to set up a new link and in cases of particular financial hardship.

1. Name and address of organisation/group/individual applying for the grant:

Organisation:	Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association
Name:	Bert Bremner
Address:	12 Morello Close, Norwich
Postcode:	NR4 7NF
Email:	Norwich.rouen@gmail.com
Phone:	01603 471134
Position within organisation:	Chair

2. Please describe fully why you are applying for a grant and which city or town you are forming links with?

A very special International Youth Football Tournament 3rd & 4th August 2024 will be taking place organised by Cringleford Junior Football Club involving teams from Rouen and Koblenz, and taking place in Easton. The Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association are involved as we want to promote links between Norwich and Rouen, and this event a wonderful chance to start links, and could lead to even more. How can Norwich help with this event which will open many opportunities for Twinning with Rouen and Normandy? I do understand the financial difficulties that all local governments are having, but I hope that Norwich could make a generous financial contribution to this very special event using the Twinning fund. With Rouen still being very keen to be very international after their failed bid to be European City of Culture 2028 it would be great to have a senior officer and Cabinet member to liaise directly with, especially as Rouen Metropole wants to continue to develop the connection.

Cringleford JFC are forecast to lose money from the tournament given the costs involved. While the tournament is not designed to be a money raiser (as the focus is on bringing teams together), they are struggling. On top of the costs of the pitch hire, car park hire, refs, St John's Ambulance, FA sanctioning, trophies, etc., (which they are hoping to recoup through entry fees from the UK teams plus some sponsorship), they are currently funding the entries for the Rouen and Koblenz teams (£95 per team), and the cost of the evening community party for the kids (£7.50 per player).

Rouen - The Rouen Metropole / Council confirmed that 4 Rouen teams will be entering across the U11, U12 and U13 age groups. They are funding the transport and most of

the accommodation. Cringleford are funding the team entries plus the remaining accommodation costs. Rouen are focusing on teams with players from disadvantaged backgrounds and are also supporting the administrative side (e.g. arranging passports for the players).

How this will further the aims of the Twinning Committee:

- 1) promote and foster Civic links and exchange activities of all kinds with Rouen, - Obviously this promotes and fosters links with Rouen, and has already assisted us make excellent links with various officers at Rouen City Hall!
- 2) The policy of the Committee is to concentrate on making grants to assist visits by young people - this certainly will assist visits by young people.
- 3) an initial visit to set up a new link - This will set up a new link aiming to make the connection long lasting and far reaching to the benefit of young people in Norwich and Rouen.
- 4) in cases of particular financial hardship. - Rouen are focusing on teams with players from disadvantaged backgrounds

3. If the grant is to help towards the costs of a visit, please answer the following questions:

How many people will be in the group making the visit?	I am assuming about 8 players per team plus 2 adults, but there could be more = 40+
How many of these are under 18 years of age?	Assuming 8 players per team I am assuming 32 but there could be more!
How many people in your organisation/group live in the Norwich City Council area?	This is NNRFA not the visitors! 51
Has your organisation/group received any previous grant from the Twinning Committee? If yes, please say how much and when?	Not within the current financial year
What is the total cost of this visit?	
How much grant are you applying for?	£1280 Breakdown of the cost: There are 4 x 5-a-side teams coming from Rouen and Norwich could fund the 4 x £95 entry fees. = £380 So that Norwich would cover the entry fee instead of Cringleford JFC - Below you will see that there will be

	<p>overall costs relating to the event but I have narrowed it down to the visitors from Rouen.</p> <p>I am assuming about 8 players per team plus 2 adults and 40 x £7.50 for the Community Party = £300 - ASSUMING ONLY 40 FROM ROUEN</p> <p>Providing a gift for each of the kids that they can take away as a memory of the event would be nice. £5 x 40 = £200 ASSUMING ONLY 40 FROM ROUEN</p> <p>Covering the remaining accommodation costs left after Rouen have already paid so much £10 x 40 = £400 ASSUMING ONLY 40 FROM ROUEN</p>
<p>Are you applying for any other organisation or business for grants? If yes, please say who to and for how much?</p>	
<p>How will your organisation/group be paying for the visit?</p>	<p>Parts of the visit are funded by Rouen themselves and Cringleford Junior Football Club.</p>

4. It is a condition of the grant that your travel arrangements are made with a bonded travel company, which is a member of ABTA. Please confirm this requirement and give the name of your travel company

5. If the grant is for another purpose other than a visit, please give as much detail as you can by answering the following questions:

What is the total cost of the project or activity?	
Has your organisation/group received any previous grant from the Twinning Committee? If yes, please say how much and when	
How much grant are you applying for?	
Are you applying to any other organisation or business for grants? If yes, please say who to and for how much?	
How will your organisation/group pay for the project or activity?	

If you need any help, have any questions about completing the application or require the application in another format or language please contact Democratic Services at DemocraticServices@norwich.gov.uk.

