



## TWINNING COMMITTEE

4.00pm – 5.15pm

5 June 2008

Present: Councillor Gledhill (Vice Chair) (in the Chair), Councillors Collishaw, Jeraj, Lay, and Sands, Ralph Gayton, John Jennings, Jill Noble, The Lord Mayor, Canon David Sharp, Doug Underwood and Christine Wilson

Apologies: Councillor Blower, Claire Alban, Peter Beckley, Waltraud Jarrold, David McKay and County Councillor Northam (Chairman Norfolk County Council)

### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Blower in his absence as Chair for the current Civic Year.

### 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Gledhill as Vice Chair for the current Civic Year.

### 3. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2008 subject to item 3(c) being amended to read 'The annual visit to Novi Sad by Peter and Diana Beckley and John Jennings took place during February'.

### 4. COUNCILLOR FERRIS

**RESOLVED** to record the Committee's appreciation to Councillor Ferris for her contribution towards twinning as member and Chair and the valued friendships she formed over the years.

### 5. MATTERS ARISING

#### Rouen 50th Anniversary

The Chair, the Twinning Officer and the Association would meet to discuss twinning ideas to mark the Rouen 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### 6. GENERAL REPORTS

#### 3(a) Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

John Jennings and Doug Underwood presented the report. Doug Underwood expressed concern at the state of the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge he said the general appearance and condition of the bridge was not a good advert for Norwich. The surface of the bridge was badly worn, exposed steel work, brickwork had started to deteriorate and the handrail was in need of varnishing. The plaque needed remedial work and should be moved to be more visible. This was the most highly used bridge and an embarrassment not only to the Association but to Norwich.

John Jennings said the 'Exit' festival would be going ahead, with only two bands from Norwich being accepted due to this becoming very competitive. The Novi Sad football club financial state was very poor and the ground had no electricity or water. The Norwich Rotarians had shown some interest in the club and as previously reported the former Lord Mayor Councillor Blower and Norwich City Football Club had donated some football shirts.

**Resolved to –**

- (1) ask the Twinning Officer to write to Norfolk County Council of the concerns raised by the Novi Sad Association and the Committee regarding the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge:
- (2) thank John Jennings and Doug Underwood for their reports.

**3(b) Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association**

Christine Wilson presented the report. She said students from the City of Norwich School would be visiting Rouen during the 'Armada' which takes place every four years. The Lord Mayor of Norwich along with other representatives from Rouen's twin cities would be attending the signing a twinning charter between Rouen and Cleveland, Ohio.

The Spatial Metro Conference had been well organised, all partner cities had learnt a lot from each other. She congratulated Norwich City Council on organising such an excellent conference.

The Twinning Officer said he would discuss with officers the possibility of 'Welcome to Norwich' sign being renewed to include the coat of arms of the Twinned Cities.

**RESOLVED** to thank Christine Wilson for presenting the report.

**3(c) Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link**

Ralph Gayton presented the El Viejo report. He said that there had been considerable damage caused by Hurricane Alma which had struck from the Pacific Ocean and had caused serious damage to west coast of Nicaragua. Hurricanes at this time of year were previously unknown. There was not thought to be any serious damage in El Viejo.

The Links logo appeared on the all of the 200 schoolbags distributed to the school children from various schools, during which all the schools came together for the occasion.

The Annual Sponsored Summer Bike Rider takes place on Sunday 20 July.

**RESOLVED** to thank Ralph Gayton for his report.

### **3(d) Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association**

Jill Noble presented the report. She said the Norfolk Association of Twin Communities walk at Rockland St Mary had been well supported by twin associations across Norfolk. Canon David Sharp reported on the Norwich Diocesan European Group visit to Koblenz.

Jill Noble thanked the City Council for the hospitality given to the delegation from Koblenz, some came to Norwich to take part in the 'Spatial Metro' conference and others came to celebrate 30 years of twinning. The delegates were very impressed with what they saw of Norwich, the presentations and the hospitality which they received.

During discussion the Associations said how difficult it was to advertise twinning and attract young people. The Twinning Officer said he would speak to officers about placing something in the Citizen to help push and widen awareness of Twinning.

**RESOLVED** to thank Jill Noble for presenting the Koblenz report.

## **7. TWINNING FUND – FINANCIAL POSITION**

**RESOLVED** to note the Twinning Fund balance (in-hand) at 27 March 2008, of £2,223.27.

## **8. ANNUAL GRANT TO THE TWINNING ASSOCIATIONS**

**RESOLVED** to grant £200 to each of the three Twinning Associations, Koblenz, Novi Sad and Rouen. The El Viejo Link to retain support in kind i.e. photocopying etc.

## **9. APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM NORWICH SAMBA**

**RESOLVED** to grant £250 to the Norwich Samba Neutrinos Band to assist with costs associated with a visit to Norwich by two members from Balkain.

## **10. APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH NOVI SAD ASSOCIATION**

**RESOLVED** to grant £100 to the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association to help with costs related to a concert at St. Thomas Church, Earlham Road on 20 September 2008.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Lord Mayor's Charity Ball**

The Lord Mayor announced his ball was to be held on 4 October 2008 at 7.45p.m. at the Holiday Inn on Cromer Road. He would be inviting various Ambassadors including the Serbia Ambassador.

### **12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note the next meeting would be held on 2 October 2008.

CHAIR