

## **Twinning committee**

**Date: Thursday, 06 July 2023**

**Time: 16:00**

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

### **Committee members:**

Councillor Wright (Lord Mayor)  
Councillor Catt  
Councillor Galvin  
Councillor Peek  
Councillor Sands (M)  
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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<b>1 Appointment of chair</b> To appoint a chair for the ensuing civic year.	
<b>2 Appointment of vice chair</b> To appoint a vice chair for the ensuing civic year.	
<b>3 Apologies</b> To receive apologies for absence	
<b>4 Declarations of interest</b>  (Please note that it is the responsibility of individual members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive late for the meeting)	
<b>5 Minutes</b>  To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023.	<b>3 - 6</b>
<b>6 Twinning fund - Update</b>  <b>Purpose</b> - To provide an update to the twinning committee.	<b>7 - 10</b>
<b>7 Update on the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship Link</b>  <b>Purpose</b> - To provide an update on the activities on the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship link.	<b>11 - 12</b>
<b>8 Reports of the twinning associations</b>  To receive reports from the twinning associations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association</li><li>• Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association</li><li>• Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association</li></ul>	

Date of publication: **Wednesday, 28 June 2023**



**Twinning committee**

**15:00 to 15:30**

**23 March 2023**

Present: Councillors Maguire (chair), Wright (vice chair), Catt, Hampton, and Sands (M) and Bob Young (Koblenz), Doug Underwood (Novi Sad), and Bert Bremner (Rouen).

Apologies: Councillors Schmierer, Thomas (Va) and Thomas (Vi) and Isabelle Savage (Rouen), 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 20 October 2022.

**3. Twinning fund – financial position and update**

The Lord Mayor introduced the report. The democratic and elections manager highlighted that paragraph 3) should read Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association (NNRFA). He said that the associations were welcome to submit grant applications to himself, and outside of any committee meeting there was a mechanism of getting these approved in a timely manner.

He had written confirmation that the El Viejo Friendship Link had been wound up at its last meeting on 21 October 2022.

On 22 November 2022 the council had agreed to establish a Friendship Link between Norwich City Council and the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people in Brazil. Work was progressing with establishing the link, and representatives of the link would be invited to a future twinning meeting.

A member commented that it would be good to have other forms of links between cities across the world that were not necessarily formalised. Another member commented that the city council had given Freedom of the City to two Ukrainian cities: Lviv and Odesa, once the war in Ukraine it would be good to have a link with both of these cities. The head of legal and procurement said that the rationale for establishing a formal link with Ari-Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau had been through ongoing work between Councillors Waters and Osborn and the University of East Anglia. Links of these nature take time to form.

Doug Underwood, Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association, said that energy had to be maintained behind links, as the links were based on friendship and support. The support from the city council was appreciated but members of the association had to be prepared to invest time and money through fundraisers. Bert Bremner, Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association, commented that the links had to be started informally to be successful.

**RESOLVED**, unanimously, to note the twinning fund financial position.

#### **4. Reports of the twinning associations**

##### **Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association**

Bert Bremner updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association. He said that unfortunately Christine Wilson had passed away suddenly. He paid tribute to her work not only on the Rouen association but with working with the other associations. The city of Rouen was looking at putting up a plaque in her honour in the friendship garden.

The association had recently held their Annual General Meeting, and Isabelle Savage had been elected as vice chair and Bert Bremner was the interim chair. The association were planning a number of events including a visit to Rouen in June and a dinner in November 2023.

He highlighted the importance of the long-term friendships that were established through the twinning links.

##### **Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association**

Bob Young updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association. He reflected on his first year as the Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association chair. A highlight had been the Southern Comfort trip in the summer of 2022 and the association had booked the same trip for summer 2023.

He said that the Koblenz branch of the association would be winding up in 2025, as there was not enough membership to continue. Bob Young said that the association would be speaking to the Koblenz city council to enquire how the association could be revived.

The Lord Mayor suggested that a letter could be written.

##### **Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association**

Doug Underwood gave an update on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association. He said that the vice treasurer, Sue Prutton had unexpectedly died in December 2022 and a number of Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association committee members had stood down, including the vice chairman, Peter Beckley MBE, and long serving member Dr Brenda Moffitt.

He said that Novi Sad had been the European Capital of Culture in 2022 but unfortunately the association had not been able to organise a visit to Novi Sad during

2022. A new member had recently joined the association that had strong links with Novi Sad.

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association had held the Paul Cross Memorial concert in January 2023, and were grateful to the committee for the grant that had been paid. The association was looking at moving the date of the concert in 2024 to ensure that it was not impacted by weather.

The association had also moved the annual lunch to a location within Norwich, and this would be taking place in October 2023. Doug Underwood said that the annual general meeting of Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association had been held on 20 March 2023 and had been chaired by the Lord Mayor.

**RESOLVED** to note the updates of the associations.

CHAIR





**Committee Name:** Twinning  
**Committee Date:** 06/07/2023  
**Report Title:** Twinning fund –Update

**Portfolio:** Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

**Report from:** Democratic and elections manager

**Wards:** All wards

**OPEN PUBLIC ITEM**

**Purpose:**

To provide an update to the twinning committee.

**Recommendation:**

To note the report.

**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 in July 2023 is £3,450
2. The Twinning Fund will be allocated an additional £2,060 for the current financial year by the next meeting in October.
3. There have been no grants awarded since the last meeting in March 2023 in the financial year 2022-2023.
4. There have been no further grant applications from twinning associations for specific events in the current financial year 2023-2024.
5. The twinning associations are encouraged to submit applications to the committee for consideration for any events planned.
6. Members of the committee are reminded that grant applications from Twinning Associations are made by completing a grant application form which is sent to the democratic and elections manager. 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.
7. 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. The democratic and elections manager encourages the associations to bring forward their wording and artwork.
8. Work is ongoing around establishing a friendship link between Norwich and Uru-Eu-Wau Wau indigenous people based in Rondônia, Brazil. An update report on this from Alan Waters will be considered later in the meeting.

## **Consultation**

9. There has been no consultation on this report.

## **Implications**

### **Financial and Resources**

10. 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.
11. The report sets out the financial position of the twinning fund. Any grant applications will be considered within existing budgets.

## **Legal**

12. 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

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

**Background papers:** None

**Appendices:** None

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**Committee name:** Twinning

**Committee date:** 06/07/2023

**Report title:** Update on the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship Link

**Report from:** Alan Waters

**OPEN PUBLIC ITEM**

**Purpose**

This report provides an update on the activities on the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship link.

**Recommendation:**

To note the report.

**Report details**

1. Unfortunately, Alan Waters is unable to attend the meeting but has provided the following update.
2. The city council agreed to the establishment of friendship link with the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau indigenous people at its full council meeting in November 2022. The report can be found [here](#).
3. The friendship charter is close to completion.
4. By the next meeting of the twinning committee copies of the charter will have been sent to the Brazilian Government and regional tiers of government. It will also be sent to the Brazilian Embassy in the UK to inform them of the connection between Norwich and the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau. This will deliver on one of the objectives for this indigenous community: that the friendship link will give visibility, a higher profile and some protection in the defence of their territory and precious rainforest.
5. A draft constitution is in preparation and modelled upon examples from the other twinning associations in the city. This will be completed by the end of July.
6. A priority is to establish a steering group of volunteers that can help with the work of shaping up areas of collaboration and other links, as outlined in the report that went to full council. This is a target to be achieved during the Autumn of 2023.



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