

Report to	Twinning committee	Item
	7 July 2016	
Report of	The twinning officer	6
Subject	Visit of Dr. Joachim Hofmann-Göttig: Oberbürgermeister of Koblenz	

Purpose

To apprise members of the two-day visit of Dr. Joachim Hofmann-Göttig, Oberbürgermeister of Koblenz to Norwich on 27 – 28 May 2016.

Recommendations

To note the report of the visit.

Financial consequences

None.

Corporate objective/service plan priority

The report helps to meet the strategic priority to maintain a prosperous and vibrant city and the service plan priority of providing a range of cultural and leisure opportunities and events for people.

Contact officers

Andy Futter, senior committee officer

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Background documents

None

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1. On Thursday, March 10, 2016, an email was received from Brigitte Finkemeier, who works for Dr. Joachim Hofmann-Göttig, the Oberbürgermeister of Koblenz.
2. The email explained that Dr. Hofmann-Göttig would be visiting Norwich on 27 – 28 May 2016 and if possible would like a tour of the city to understand better the links between the two cities.
3. This was agreed to by the twinning officer (Andy Emms) and between he and senior committee officer Andy Futter, a two-day itinerary of visits to relevant areas and attractions within Norwich.

Day one: Friday 27 May, 2016

4. Andy Emms and Andy Futter arrived at the Maids Head Hotel and greeted Dr. Hofmann-Göttig, Günter Hahn and Peter Lotak.
5. From there, the party attended the Lord Mayor's parlour at City Hall where they met with Lord Mayor Councillor Marion Maxwell and enjoyed convivial introductions and conversation over coffee.
6. Andy Emms then took the party on a brief walking tour of the city, taking in the market, the Royal Arcade and London Street before attending the Cathedral Refectory for a lunch provided by the Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association.
7. After lunch, the visitors were met by Andy and Andy and taken on tour of the Dragon Hall / Writer's Centre by its executive director, Alison McFarlane.
8. A visit to the castle museum followed, during which the Oberbürgermeister was very pleased to have his request to visit the battlements accepted. The visit finished with a guided tour of the castle keep and an explanation of the plans for its renovation.
9. Following a brief break for a return to the hotel and a change of clothes, the civic party were joined by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Mike Stonard, Andy Emms, Andy Futter and Waltraud and Richard Jarrold at The Library Restaurant for dinner. Gifts were exchanged and all seemed to enjoy themselves.
10. The evening closed with the civic party and the Lord Mayor – accompanied by Andy Futter – attending a concert of Mozart and Hayden music at the cathedral, given by the excellent English Chamber Orchestra.

Day two: Saturday 28 May, 2016

11. At 10:45 the civic party were collected from the Maids Head Hotel by Andy and Andy and taken to the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts.

12. The visitors enjoyed two special exhibitions in addition to the regular collection: *Alberto Giacometti: A Line Through Time* and *Henri Cartier-Bresson: Paris*.
13. A short visit to Norwich International Airport followed, with time to see the airport infrastructure and take in a quick cold drink – very welcome as the day was proving to be incredibly warm.
14. A visit to Café Britannia at the Britannia Barracks on Mousehold Heath proved popular, with the Oberbürgermeister taking particular interest in the rehabilitation concept of the enterprise – as well as the lasagne.
15. A visit to the Forum on Millennium Plain followed, with a guided tour of the premises including the library.
16. A final visit took place which was to the Guildhall on Guildhall Walk. A full tour was given which included a visit to the courtrooms as well as the cells beneath the building. The party was joined by Waltraud and Richard Jarrold.
17. The civic party then bade their farewells and were taken to visit Wroxham and Great Yarmouth by Günter Hahn – who knows the area very well.

Conclusion

18. All in all, the party from Koblenz seemed to greatly enjoy their visit to the twin city, with the Oberbürgermeister particularly noticing many similarities between Koblenz and Norwich.
19. A letter of thanks has subsequently been received by Lord Mayor Marion Maxwell. A translation of this letter can be seen at appendix A

Councillor Marion Maxwell
Lord Mayor
Norwich City Council
City Hall
Norwich
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Der Oberbürgermeister

Prof. Dr. Joachim Hofmann-Göttig



Koblenz, 22 June 2016

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Dear Lord Mayor, Mrs. Maxwell, dear colleague, dear Marion,

Having returned from our trip, I wish to thank you very much for the beautiful days that we spent in Norwich.

It was a great pleasure for me to meet you, to discover your wonderful city and the surrounding region, and to make new acquaintances.

I would like to invite you - accompanied by Andy Emms (or a representative) - to visit Koblenz so that we can bring to life for you the qualities of our beautiful city on the Rhine and Moselle. We could easily combine your visit with that of the Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association, due to take place next year.

Please let my colleague Mrs Brigitte Finkemeier know if you are able to accept this invitation and suggest dates when you would wish to visit Koblenz. She can be contacted at: Brigitte.Finkemeier@stadt.koblenz.de

I am convinced that relations between Koblenz and Norwich can be further strengthened and I will always support this.

Mrs Waltraud Jarrold, Mr Andy Emms, Mr Andy Futter and all: having contributed to the success of our stay in Norwich, I again offer many thanks for your hospitality on behalf of myself, Mr. Günter Hahn and Mr Peter Lotak.

Warm greetings from Koblenz


Joachim Hofmann-Göttig

