



TWINNING COMMITTEE

4.00pm to 5.00pm

2 June 2011

Present: Councillors Lay (Lord Mayor and chair following election), Bremner (vice chair) Offord and Thomas, Peter Beckley, Ralph Gayton, Waltraud Jarrold, Jill Noble and Doug Underwood

Apologies: Clare Alban, Lord Mayor and Councillor Shelagh Hutson (the Chairman, Norfolk County Council)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Lay, Lord Mayor, as chair of the twinning committee for the ensuing civic year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Bremner as vice chair of the twinning committee for the ensuing civic year.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2011 subject to the following amendments to item 4, reports of the twinning associations, Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association, correcting Doug Underwood's surname and deleting "and Croatia".

4. GENERAL REPORTS OF THE TWINNING ASSOCIATIONS

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold presented the report and pointed out a typographical error in that Reg Chiddick's name had been misspelt. Photographs of the Bundersgartenshau (BUGA) were circulated at the meeting. The Norwich day on 1 May 2011 had been successful. There had been large crowds supporting the dancers and musicians (Passion Productions and Access to Music), the Kemps Men of Norwich and the Whifflers. The radio hams had a clear link between the two cities but it had not been possible to provide a link from The Forum in Norwich. The Norwich garden had received lots of praise and it was a credit to Chris Southgate and George Ishmael who had created it. The garden had fitted in well with the themes of the church and the stained window feature was similar to the association's window at Dragon Hall. The garden was adjacent to a special school that had links with the Clare School in Norwich.

Discussion ensued on the BUGA event and there was general consensus that the event had been a success and a credit to the hosts in Koblenz, Andy Emms the twinning officer, Norwich in Bloom, and the musicians and dancers.

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Peter Beckley updated the committee on activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association since the last meeting. The association was holding a concert on 28 June 2011 where two musicians from Novi Sad would be performing. This had been arranged through connections with Waltraud Jarrold. The county council had been successful in bidding for €200,000 for a project from the European Union Education, Audiovisual and Culture fund to create an international youth orchestra bringing together young musicians from Novi Sad and Koblenz with members of the Norfolk County Youth Orchestra. The orchestra would perform concerts in each of the participating twin cities over a two year period. Members of the association had visited Novi Sad in May and equipment and games had been presented to the Milan Petrović special school, on behalf of the Norfolk Association for the Blind.

Doug Underwood said that Novi Sad was applying to be the 2020 European Capital of Culture bid and that there had been initial discussions with the city council to share its expertise in preparing the bid.

Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the report and said that he had visited El Viejo in early May with the remit of taking video footage which would be displayed at The Forum in August. The delegation had attended a commission, launched to engage young people and guide them away from delinquent behaviour, and visited maternity services, which were 20 miles from the nearest general hospital, and there was a lack of access and availability to transport and basic equipment, such as a foetal monitor and an ultra sound scanner. The celebrations for the 25 years of the friendship link between El Viejo and Norfolk and Norwich had been very well supported.

During discussion members noted the poems written by children in El Viejo as a gift to the city to celebrate 25 years of the friendship link.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

5. KOBLENZ BUGA 2011

Councillor Bremner proposed that the committee should give thanks to the twinning officer, Andy Emms, for putting together the cultural programme. This was seconded by the chair.

RESOLVED, having considered the report of the twinning officer, to:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) thank Norwich in Bloom, the Kemps Men, Passion Productions and Access to Music (Norwich) for representing Norwich at BUGA 2011;

- (3) record the committee's thanks to the City of Koblenz and BUGA 2011 for their generous financial contributions that enabled Norwich to be represented at BUGA 2011;
- (4) ask the chair to write to the above on behalf of the committee to thank them for their contributions to BUGA 2011;
- (5) record the committee's thanks to Andy Emms as twinning officer for his contribution in the arrangements for the event and putting together the programme of cultural events;
- (6) note that the chair of the twinning committee had authorised associated expenditure of £52.76 from the twinning fund.

6. TWINNING FUND – FINANCIAL POSITION

Ralph Gayton explained that at the last meeting the committee had agreed to grant £1,000 to the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link for its 25th anniversary. This had been reduced to £750, following consultation with the chair and vice chair, because Ralph Gayton could not attend the delegation. This had subsequently been rearranged so he could attend and therefore the remaining £250 had been granted.

RESOLVED to note that:-

- (1) the twinning fund balance (in-hand) at 20 May 2011 is £1,635.44;
- (2) the City of Koblenz has offered a grant of up to €20,000 to take in to account expenditure incurred for BUGA.

7. ANNUAL GRANT TO THE TWINNING ASSOCIATIONS

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) grant £200 to each of the three twinning associations, Koblenz, Novi Sad and Rouen;
- (2) note that the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link has preferred to retain support in kind, ie, photocopying etc.

8. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2011-12

RESOLVED to hold meetings at 4.00pm at City Hall on the following dates:

Thursday 13 October 2011
Thursday 15 March 2012
Thursday 14 June 2012

CHAIR