



TWINNING COMMITTEE

4.00 pm – 5.10 pm

8 October 2009

Present: Councillors Blower (Chair), Gledhill (Vice Chair), Hooke, Jeraj, Peter Beckley, Mary Corbould, Ralph Gayton, Jill Noble, Chris Southgate and Doug Underwood

Apologies: Councillor Lay, Claire Alban, Canon David Sharp, Lord Mayor, Chairman Norfolk County Council, June Perkins, Waltraud Jarrold

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2009 subject to 4(a) add to resolution, to ask the Twinning Officer to discuss with the Head of Communications and Cultural Services adding a new category to the Civic Award Scheme which recognise international activities.

Novi Sad Bridge

Doug Underwood confirmed that the County Council had asked if the City Council could provide a stencil for the County to use on the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge.

RESOLVED to ask the Twinning Officer to speak to the Highways department with regard to the stencil and signage for the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge.

Nicaragua Conference

Councillor Hooke said he was unable to attend the Nicaragua Conference at Bristol on 12 November 2009.

RESOLVED to ask the Twinning Assistant to attend the Nicaragua Conference if no other Councillor could be found.

2. GENERAL REPORTS

2(a) Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Peter Beckley presented the report. He informed members that the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the official Twinning Charter between both Norwich and Novi Sad would take place on 27 October 2009 in Novi Sad. Both he and Diana and Doug Underwood would be attending. Unfortunately the Lord Mayor was unable to attend.

Some years ago Peter Beckley was made representative of the Office of Representative of Novi Sad. Through this organisation he organised with the assistance of the Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust (HEART) a tour of some of Norwich's major buildings to look at how property was preserved. This was arranged for the Director and staff of the Institute of the Preservation of Cultural Monuments during their visit to the East of England, with the hope they would be able to replicate this in Novi Sad.

RESOLVED to thank Peter Beckley for his report.

2(b) Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the report and said this was the Links low activity period, they would use this time to review the current situation and plan for the future.

2011 would be the Links Silver Jubilee anniversary. The Link would be looking at ways of celebrating in El-Viejo and Norwich.

RESOLVED to thank Ralph Gayton for his report.

2 (c) Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Jill Noble presented the report and said the Associations visit to Koblenz had been very successful and they were greeted on arrival with a wine reception in an old medieval building. The Norwich and District Photographic Society's annual exhibition at Norwich Cathedral had been a great success.

Chris Southgate informed members of the BUGA festival taking place in Koblenz from April to October 2011, which would attract vast numbers of visitors. Each of Koblenz's eight twin cities would be given an opportunity to be highlighted. He had been in contact with council officers and would be happy to do some of the work to take this project forward.

The Twinning Officer said the Council's Landscape Team Leader were looking at ways the Council could make this happen.

The Chair suggested the Geoffrey Watling Foundation could be looked at as a form of funding.

RESOLVED to thank Jill Noble and Chris Southgate for their reports.

2(d) Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

Mary Corbould presented her report and circulated the Rouen newsletter. She said the Lord Mayor had attended their garden party held in Geraldine Smith's garden. The Lord Mayor along with the Twinning Officer would be joining the Norwich group on their visit to Rouen to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the twinning of both cities. The weekend also coincided with the annual Fete du Ventre. Unfortunately the Norwich rowers club were unable to attend as first thought although they hoped to visit Rouen at a later date.

RESOLVED to thank Mary Corbould for her report.

3. TWINNING FUND – FINANCIAL POSITION

The Twinning Officer said members needed to be mindful when awarding grants of two significant events coming up during 2010 and 2011 both the El Viejo and Novi Sad anniversaries.

RESOLVED to note the Twinning Fund balance (in-hand) at 23 September 2009 of £1447.61.

4. TWINNING OFFICER'S UPDATE

The Twinning Officer presented the report and informed members he had contacted the Head of Communications and Cultural Services and had been advised that the Civic Award Scheme was specifically set up to acknowledge people's contribution to or within our own community, not what people from our community had done for others. Although, this would be nice to recognise what was done for other countries overseas the Civic Award Scheme was not the place.

He said he would be visiting Rouen with the Lord Mayor on Friday 16 October 2009 for the reciprocal visit in celebration of the 50th anniversary, meetings had been arranged on the Saturday visit some of their European projects as an information gathering exercise. They would be returning to Norwich on the Sunday.

During 2010 the Novi Sad Association would be celebrating their 50th anniversary of links with Novi Sad and he had a meeting with the Association's committee, to discuss their initial thought of ways they would like to celebrate this event. Further meetings would be held to take this forward.

RESOLVED to note the position.

5. APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE NORFOLK COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Peter Beckley explained the background behind this application from the Norfolk County Youth Orchestra.

Following discussion it was –

RESOLVED to grant £100 towards costs associated with the Norfolk County Youth Orchestra's visit to Novi Sad.

6. APPLICATION FOR GRANT FROM THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH NOVI SAD ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED to grant £200 to the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association to assist with costs associated with the Paul Cross Memorial Concert.

7. APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM MS LAURA ELLIOTT

Peter Beckley explained this application was for an individual who had won the Café Writers Norfolk Poetry commission, which required the applicant to complete a pamphlet of poetry around exploring the twinning of Norwich and Novi Sad with the theme of the collection focusing on both physical and symbolic bridges.

RESOLVED to grant £100 to Ms Laura Elliot to assist with costs associated with her visit to Novi Sad.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Twinning Committee

Peter Beckley said on behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association, how fortunate Norwich was to have a Twinning Committee. The Committee gave value and strength to the Associations and provided the twinned cities with a stable platform which works well and has an effect. This re-iterated by the other Associations.

RESOLVED to note the Association's appreciation.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to note the next meeting would be held on 4 March 2010.

CHAIR