

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL

TWINNING COMMITTEE

18TH JUNE 2019

REPORT OF NORFOLK AND NORWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK

First, due to the fact that my wife and I have been away on holiday in Rhodes it has not been possible to prepare a report in time for circulation prior to this meeting.

Second, the Link Chairperson, David Raby, has also been away on holiday in Mexico and our committee has not met since April. However, David and his wife will visit Nicaragua and El Viejo during their time in Central America and I append below a message I have received from him about the plans for his time in Nicaragua. Much of this has been organised with assistance from the Nicaraguan Ambassador to the UK, Sra Guisell Morales, for which we are very grateful.

I had also arranged meetings for him with two of my trade union friends in Managua, and our representative in Nicaragua, Carmela Hernandez, has organised a visit and meetings with the Alcaldesas (Mayors) of El Viejo and the adjacent City of Chinandega, as well as visits to some of our schools in El Viejo. A more detailed report will be prepared when David returns to UK. The following is the message I have received from him.

Hello Ralph,

I hope you and Brenda had an enjoyable holiday in Rhodes. Luisa and I are fine, had a relaxing 3 days in Cuba and now it's been over a week in Mexico with many activities, including considerable effort getting our programme in Nicaragua organised.

We had serious communication problems for the first week or so, my hotmail isn't working which is why we are using this new e-mail, rabylda@gmail.com. Most of our communication has in fact been by WhatsApp which seems to be the most reliable service.

Guisell has been extremely helpful, and also in the last few days Carmela whom we managed to contact via WhatsApp (she explained that her e-mail often doesn't work when it rains a lot). We fly to Managua as arranged this Saturday, June 8th in the morning, we will be met by a woman from Protocol from the Foreign Ministry (courtesy of Guisell), then have a meeting with Domingo Pérez and José Bermúdez. We will be staying that night in Managua at a mid-range hotel called the Posada del Arcangel, then on Sunday afternoon we travel to Chinandega, stay the night there and on Monday morning have a meeting with the Alcaldesas of both Chinandega and El Viejo. Later that day we go to El Viejo and will be there Monday afternoon, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Carmela has been very good making arrangements for us including accommodation for us in El Viejo.

On Thursday evening we travel back to Managua and on Friday we have a full programme organised by Guisell: 9 am meeting with the President of the Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development; 11 am, meeting with José Antonio Zepeda, General Secretary of ANDEN-FNT; 2 pm, meeting with the President of the National Assembly; 4 pm, meeting with the Sandinista Youth and Press Conference!

The weekend of the 15th-16th is free and we will visit our friends in Matagalpa who have a car to take us there and back. On Monday 17th we have a meeting at the Foreign Ministry at 10 am, a meeting with the Director of the National Theatre at 11 am, and then they take us on a sightseeing visit to Masaya and Granada. On the morning of the 18th we fly back to Mexico, no doubt exhausted...

All the best

David

EV Gen – DLRaby – Nica visit Report – 19-06-08