

Twining committee

Date: Thursday, 14 June 2018

Time: 16:00

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

Committee members:

Councillor Brociek-Coulton
Councillor Fullman
Councillor Huntley
Councillor Maxwell
Councillor Peek
Councillor Raby
Councillor Thomas (Vi)
Councillor Wright
Ralph Gayton (El Viejo)
Waltraud Jarrold (Koblenz)
Jill Noble (Koblenz)
Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)
Doug Underwood (Novi Sad)
Chris Rowe (Rouen)
Ann Rowe (Rouen)
Lord Mayor (ex officio)
Chairman (Norfolk County Council)
(ex officio)

For further information please contact:

Committee officer: Jackie Rodger
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Information for members of the public

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For information about attending or speaking at meetings, please contact the committee officer above or refer to the council's website



If you would like this agenda in an alternative format, such as a larger or smaller font, audio or Braille, or in a different language, please contact the committee officer above.

Agenda

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1 Appointment of Chair

To appoint a chair for the ensuing civic year

2 Appointment of Vice Chair

To appoint a vice chair for the ensuing civic year

3 Apologies

To receive apologies for absence

4 Public questions/petitions

To receive questions / petitions from the public

Please note that all questions must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by **10am on Monday, 11 June 2018**

Petitions must be received must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by **10am on Wednesday, 13 June 2018**

For guidance on submitting public questions or petitions please see appendix 1 of the council's constitution.

5 Declarations of interest

(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)

6 Minutes

5 - 8

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2018

7 Norwich-in-Bloom - Proposal for a Twinning Garden in Norwich

Presentation by Beryl Blower, Norwich-in-Bloom, on proposal for a twinning garden in Norwich.

8 Reports of the Twinning Associations

To receive of the reports from the twinning associations

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 8(a) Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association | 9 - 10 |
| 8(b) Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association | 11 - 12 |
| 8(c) Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association | 13 - 14 |
| 8(d) Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link | 15 - 18 |
| 9 Twinning Committee budget | 19 - 20 |

Purpose - This report informs the committee of the current financial position of the twinning fund.

10 Annual Grants for the Twinning Associations 21 - 22

Purpose - To ask committee to consider the annual grant to the four twinning associations

11 Application for Grant - Paul Cross Memorial Concert 23 - 30

Purpose - To notify the committee of the application for a grant from the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

12 Application for Grant - Triorca

An application for a grant is expected to be available at the meeting.

Date of publication: **Thursday, 07 June 2018**



Twinning committee

16:00 to 17:25

15 March 2018

Present: Councillors Fullman (Lord Mayor and chair), Bremner (vice chair), Brociek-Coulton, Kendrick (substitute for Councillor Peek), Raby and Wright: and Ralph Gayton (El Viejo), Waltraud Jarrold and Jill Noble (Koblenz); Sandra and Doug Underwood (Novi Sad) and Ann and Chris Rowe (Rouen)

Apologies: Councillors Maxwell, Peek, Ryan and Schmierer, and Councillor John Ward (Chairman of Norfolk County Council)

1. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

2. Declarations of interest

Councillor Bremner said that he was a member of the Norfolk and Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association and the Norfolk and Norwich / Rouen Friendship Association and was in the process of joining the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

Councillor Raby declared that he was a member of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link and the Norfolk and Norwich / Rouen Friendship Association.

3. Minutes

Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton said that he was disappointed that the minutes could not be amended as he considered that he had moved, seconded by Councillor Raby that the twinning committee was in solidarity with Nicaragua rather than, as minuted, noting the effect that the withdrawal of foreign investment could have on Nicaragua as a result of the United States' Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act 2017. The senior committee officer said that that the motion was not admissible and that the monitoring officer's advice had been sought. The Lord Mayor advised members to liaise with democratic services before the committee meeting if they wished the committee to agree an action arising from their reports.

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017, subject to item 6, Reports of the Twinning Associations, The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association noting the formatting issue in the first paragraph and deleting the partial sentence.

4. Twining Fund – Financial Position

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. The report set out a proposal for twinning associations and members to make detailed bids for funding with detailed information about the event which would then be considered by the committee at the next available meeting.

During discussion the Lord Mayor pointed out that funding should be set aside for events to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of twinning between Norwich and Rouen in 2019.

Discussion ensued on the allocation of funding for civic visits. Members were advised that Councillor Waters, Leader of the Council, had travelled with the Lord Mayor to Novi Sad in February and as a guest of the City of Koblenz. The cost of travel for the civic party had been taken out of the twinning fund. Members were reminded that the city council also had agreements with the twinned cities which were separate from the agreements between the associations. A member pointed out that the twinning fund was fortunate in that any surplus in the budget was carried forward year on year and that the Leader's visit had furthered the aims of twinning. Members were also advised that the purpose of the report was to report transactions in the twinning fund to the committee.

The committee noted that an enquiry had been received from the TRIORCA Youth Orchestra but it had been too late to submit an application for consideration at this committee meeting. Members noted that as an educational charity it was likely that there were other sources of funding which could be open to it but an application form would be sent for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the balance of the twinning fund is approximately £2,001.50;
- (2) ask that twinning associations and members to submit requests for funding for twinning events to be funded from the 2018-19 budget as soon as possible so that these can be considered at the June meeting of the committee.

5. Reports of the Twining Associations

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Doug Underwood presented the report on behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association. This included a report on the Paul Cross Memorial Concert which had raised £14 for the Milan Petrović School in Novi Sad. The guest performers were Milica Stojadinović and her son, the outstanding pianist, Boško Stojadinović. The remainder of the report comprised from Mr Peter Beckley, MBE, on the visit to Novi Sad for the Celebration of the Day of the City. Members of the committee were welcome to attend the association's annual general meeting on 12 April 2018 at 19:30 and the annual lunch on 14 October 2018 at Park Farm.

The Lord Mayor said that the visit to Novi Sad had been excellent. He had been presented with a copy of the Empress Maria Theresa's seal which she had used in

1748 when she granted Novi Sad its freedom from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and a book on Novi Sad. The visit to Novi Sad had been his third as he had visited it as Lord Mayor in 1989 and again in 2001, shortly after the civil war. The Day of the City celebrations had been attended not only by representatives of Novi Sad's twin cities but for the first time in many years from representatives of the other cities across the former Yugoslavia. Representatives of Novi Sad had been invited to Norwich to look at traffic management, Park & Ride, and schemes to encourage cycling and walking. The Leader of the Council's visit had been worthwhile as he was in a position to make decisions because of his position. It was important to ensure that twinning links were strengthened and to look at ways that the city could contribute to Novi Sad as European City of Culture. People in Novi Sad remembered the aid that had been provided to them.

Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association. Preparations were being made for the civic visit to Koblenz to celebrate 40 years of twinning with Koblenz on 22 April 2018. She referred to the programme of activities and invited members to join in the events which included the annual summer visit to Woburn Abbey, the anniversary lunch at Park Farm on 16 September and the Advent evening at the Great Hospital on 3 December. The TRIORCA concert was being held in Norwich this year at the Open on 27 July. There would also be a special celebration on 24 August.

The committee noted that Waltraud Jarrold had been appointed President of Norwich in Bloom and that Mrs Beryl Blower, former Sheriff, and George Ishmael had expressed an interest in attending the next meeting of this committee to talk about creating a twinning garden in Norwich. Waltraud Jarrold said that it was hoped to recreate the BUGA garden that George Ishmael and Chris Southgate had created in Koblenz.

The association would like to hold a celebration at the Sainsbury Centre around the time of the Lord Mayors' celebrations. The Sainsbury Centre was also celebrating its 40th anniversary and a dinner had been held there in 1988 to celebrate the 10th anniversary.

Waltraud Jarrold expressed her disappointment that following the loss of the twinning room at Dragons Hall there was nowhere to display twinning memorabilia. Members noted that Andy Emms as twinning officer had exhausted all possibilities. There might be potential to display memorabilia at the Guildhall which the Lord Mayor would explore.

Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the executive committee's annual report to the Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link's AGM. He said that Councillor Raby had offered his services to translate documents from Spanish and that this was very welcome. Fifty grade 6 scholarship pupils had graduated in December 2017 from the eight schools in the scheme and about 200 pupils in the scholarship project. The school latrines were a disgrace. The link had held fundraising events to raise funds and it was hoped to repeat the successful music gig at Norwich Arts Centre last April and a further event at the Virgin Lounge on 28 March 2018. There had been no casualties

in El Viejo from Tropical Storm Nate which had caused devastation in Nicaragua and Honduras in early October.

Norfolk and Norwich/Rouen Friendship Association

Chris Rowe presented the report. The sixth film festival of British films with French subtitles had been held in Rouen. A photographer, Stefan Ebelenicz, who was born in Norwich and based in London, was carrying out a project where he was visiting the twinned cities of Norwich and taking photographs. The 60th anniversary coincided with the biennial visit of the Armada of tall ships and was likely to take place 7 to 11 June 2019. It was hoped that the Lord Mayor would attend. He also asked members if they would be interested in a float to commemorate twinning in the 2019 Lord Mayors Parade. The association thought it would be good fun to join in the parade to mark its 60th year.

RESOLVED to receive the reports from the twinning associations.

6. Committee Schedule 2018-1019

RESOLVED to agree, subject to approval at the city council's annual council, the schedule of meetings for the civic year 2018-19, all meetings to be at 16:00 and held at City Hall:

Thursday, 14 June 2018
Thursday, 4 October 2018
Thursday, 14 March 2019.

CHAIR



L' Amitié May 2019

Hello Everyone,

We felt it was time to send out some information about coming events.

The Garden Party

This is being held on 14th July from 12 noon.

Venue: 26 Morello Close Norwich NR4 7NF

If you are intending to share this event with us, and we hope you will, please notify Beryl Blower to let her know if you will be bringing a savoury or a sweet dish of food and/or indeed drinks with you.

01603 452557

Future Events

1.Boat Trip

We are hoping to arrange a boat trip on our river in early September hopefully with refreshments included.

You will be receiving details of the date, cost, time etc when we have them.

We hope there will be a sufficient number of people interested so that this is a relaxing social event.

2. 2019 The 60th Anniversary of Norwich – Rouen Twinning

This is going to be a busy Summer!!

June 7 – 11th 2019 Norwich visit to Rouen

The visit will coincide with the Tall Ships Armada in Rouen.

We will be arriving on the 7th and departing on the 11th. Although we, as yet, have no definite timings it would be a good idea to contact your friends/hosts and inform them of your intentions to visit them at this time. Please liaise with Ann so that she is aware of who is going where.

Those of you who would like to book hotel places with the rest of the group need to put in a provisional request to Ann as soon as possible.

The Cathedral hotel is favourite for the group but we need provisional numbers to enable us to make this negotiation. Cost for the hotel will be as advantageous as possible. Availability might change our proposed plans.

I/We need to place our provisional booking very soon indeed.

We have no firm details yet as to what is planned for us but we are assuming that on Saturday 8th the Armada will be the main event. The reception, usually held at the Mairie, may also be on the Saturday. We have not been told this detail yet.

The rest of the programme has not been communicated to us yet but a visit to Monet's Garden is a possibility for those who would like to visit/revisit it on one of the days.

July 5 -8th 2019 Rouen Visit to Norwich

This visit will coincide with the Lord Mayor's Procession

The French Party will arrive on Friday 5th and will depart on Monday 8th.

We are hoping that on the Saturday a small (civic/twinning) delegation of our visitors will be invited to travel in the procession on the Civic Float with the Lord Mayor. The rest of us will watch and cheer from the roadside! Details are still a work in progress.

On the Sunday, 7th July, Beryl has offered her garden again for a Garden Party to include our French visitors. Details for this event will be available next year – nearer the time

Ann & Chris



NEWSLETTER

Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

Editorial: G. Piccolo
e-mail: editor@nnnsa.org.uk

Editorial

The opening article in this issue of the newsletter is our Chairman's report on the AGM.

As in previous years, it was a good opportunity to meet old and new members, to socialise and to bring new ideas regarding the association to each other's attention.



You will also have notice that with this issue we have enclosed an information sheet to comply with the new privacy regulations. Please read it and, should you have any questions, contact our secretary.

A.G.M.

12 April 2018

D. C. Underwood, *Chairman*

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association held its thirty fourth Annual General Meeting in Norwich on Thursday, 12 April 2018.

The Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor David Fullman, our President, chaired the meeting. The Chairman of Norfolk County Council and our Vice President, Councillor John Ward, also attended.

The following were elected to your Committee for the next year: -

Doug. Underwood (Chairman)
Peter Beckley MBE (Vice Chairman)
Sandra Underwood (Secretary)
Gaetano Piccolo (Treasurer)
Sue Prutton (Vice Treasurer)
Heather Ashmore (Minutes Secretary)
Dr Brenda Moffitt
Wendy Quinn
John Jennings
Cathy Piccolo

Following our Meeting the Lord Mayor gave a presentation on his recent visit to Novi Sad for the "Day of the City", 1 February celebrations.

Membership fee

We would like to remind members that if they wish they can pay by bank transfer. Better still the payment can be set on standing order and paid automatically every year. If you do so, please specify in the reference if it is a student, individual or family membership so that we can work out the amount to allocate as donation.

For the association's bank details, please contact either the secretary or the treasurer.

Summer Outing Monday 16 July 2018: River Waveney Marshlands Cruise

Cost: £10 per person

Join us on a river cruise aboard the *Waveney Princess* on a tour of the River Waveney, organised by Waveney River Tours Ltd, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad, Suffolk, NR39 9JS.

The morning cruise starts at 11 a.m. besides Mutford Lock, with Pay and Display car parking close by.

With facilities incl. tea and coffee bar and an open top deck, the *Waveney Princess* offers panoramic views over the Broadland landscape on a marshlands cruise lasting 90 minutes.

Meet the group at Waveney River Tours and

pay on the day.

Join us afterwards for a pub lunch overlooking Oulton Broad at the Commodore (15, Commodore Road, Oulton Broad) which has the traditional bar menu. Please let our social secretary know by 1 July 2018 if you wish to join us on the river cruise.

Contact: Wendy Quinn

☎ 01603 458665

✉ dwendyquinn@googlemail.com

Association Visit to Novi Sad (Peter Beckley)

Apologies for lack of organisation on my part.

Several people expressed an interest in the visit and gave me their details. These I have 'lost'.

If you have not already heard from me could you please send me your details again?

The date of the visit will probably be the week from Saturday 15th. September.

I have been in touch with Sandra in Novi Sad and am

awaiting a response from her - my responsibility for not having been in contact with her sooner!

I hope to have details of costs and a programme soon. The cost (of course) will be reliant on the numbers going.

Again - my sincere apologies for not having all the details to hand yet.

Please send me your details if you would like to be part of the visit in September.

Dates for your diary

2019 Paul Cross Memorial Concert

We are pleased to announce that the forthcoming Paul Cross Memorial Concert has been arranged for Saturday, 19 January 2019 at the Norwich Assembly House. The pianist, Aleksandar Djermonović is making a return visit to Norwich. Aleksandar, you may recall, last played at our sell-out concert in January 2016 with the talented Irena Josifoska on cello.

This time, it is to be a piano and flute recital. Aleksandar will be playing classical piano sonatas as

well as accompanying Petar Popović on flute in a programme that will include piano and flute solos by modern Serbian composers. We are very fortunate to have yet another opportunity to have two outstanding musicians from Novi Sad to help us celebrate the twinning friendship.

Association's Annual Lunch

The date and venue for the annual lunch have been decided. It is going to take place on 14 October 2018 at the Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett.

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

Chairman: Doug Underwood, 14, Herb Robert Glade, Wymondham, Norwich NR18 0XS
Secretary: Sandra Underwood, 14, Herb Robert Glade, Wymondham, Norwich NR18 0XS

Tel: 01953 601585 e-mail dcunderwood@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Gaetano Piccolo, 2, Thickett Hall, Norwich Road, Hethersett. NR9 3AT

Dept. Treasurer: Sue Prutton, 41, Waldermare Avenue, Norwich. NR6 6TB

Committee Members: Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary);

Heather Ashmore (Minutes Secretary); Dr. Brenda Moffitt (Concert Sub Committee);

John Jennings (Sub Committees); Cathy Piccolo;

Peter Beckley MBE (Vice Chair, e-mail: orns@btconnect.com)

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Report to Twinning Committee June 14 2018

Congratulations and welcome to our new Lord Mayor, Councillor Martin Schmierer and Sheriff Ros Brown. Thanks to the Lord Mayor for opening the 49th Feed the Minds Book Fair yesterday, 13th June.

40th Anniversary of the Norwich Koblenz City Twinning



Since the March Twinning Committee our strong focus has been on the 40th anniversary of the cities twinning, which was signed on 22 April 1978, and celebrated in Koblenz on Sunday 22 April 2018, with an official reception hosted by the Oberbürgermeister, Prof. Dr. Joachim Hoffman-Göttig, in the historic Council Chamber with the then Lord Mayor of Norwich Councillor David Fulman and his consort Paul Goymer, myself and my husband Richard, and Chairman of NNKFA Jill Noble, as well as many twinning linked friends from Koblenz representing the whole spectrum of involved support. It was decided by the Oberbürgermeister to use English as the language for speeches.

The official programme most generously included the new publication by Günter Hahn “A Tale of Twin Cities”, which he also used as the basis for his illustrated speech, marking 40 years of twinning. A welcoming speech was given by the Oberbürgermeister with a reply by Lord Mayor David Fulman, and speech by me marking some of the highlights of 40 years working together.

An official lunch followed the reception. All present agreed that it was more than ever important to keep twinning links going with Brexit taking place. During their visit the Lord Mayor and his consort, were shown round Koblenz, the Festung Ehrenbreitstein, the new library and audio visual displays of the Rhein and Koblenz in the Romanticum, both housed in their Forum Building, which was partly inspired by the visit of a former Oberbürgermeister to Norwich and seeing our Forum.

We do trust that all our existing links will continue to flourish and that City and County support will continue, supported by our rekindled Library and Norfolk archive link.

We are pleased that there is now progress in the placement of a **Twinning- Garden**, using some of the material from the Twinning Garden originally created for the German National Garden Show held in Koblenz in the summer of 2011. Thanks to Norwich in Bloom for moving this forward.

Triorca: Combined Youth Orchestra from Norwich and Norfolk, Koblenz Region and Novi Sad, will take place, based in Norwich from July 21-28, with a concert at "Open" on Friday 27 July, and at Saffron Walden on Saturday 28 July. "Music the language of the World" and this programme helps to enhance our Twinning in a most welcome way. We hope you will support it in every way possible!

Norwich Allotment Holders have started a new link with their opposite association in Koblenz, which seems to be flourishing.

Sponsored Cycle Ride from Koblenz to Norwich will leave Koblenz and be started from the "Deutche Eck", where the Mosel joins the Rhine, by the new Oberbürgermeister, David Langner on Friday 24 August at 9.00 am. This 800 km bike ride is in aid of the Community Sports Foundation, based behind Norwich City Football Ground, off Carrow Road, which is also converting the former Anglian Sports Ground on the Cromer Road for wide sports use. The cyclists will call at various football grounds on their journey. Do look out for them arriving in Norwich.

Future Events

NNKFA Summer Outing will take place on Saturday 23 June, with a visit to Woburn Abbey. The 49 seat coach is already fully booked!

NNKFA Autumn Event. 38th Anniversary Lunch, Sunday 16 September at Park Farm, Hethersett.

NNKFA Winter Event Advent Evening at The Great Hospital, Monday 3 December.

Waltraud Jarrold MBE

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL

TWINNING COMMITTEE – 14th June, 2018

REPORT OF NORFOLK AND NORWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK

OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE IN NICARAGUA

Introduction

Since 19 April a wave of violence has profoundly polarised Nicaragua. What started as a protest against a new social security law at the technical university in Managua rapidly spread to other state universities and cities. This situation rapidly escalated into violence that has resulted in the tragic deaths of over 40 people, hundreds injured and widespread opportunistic looting. There have also been politically motivated threats, attacks and deliberate destruction of public buildings and private property. Deaths, mainly of students, have resulted from the police inexplicably using live ammunition, an unprecedented act that had never previously happened in the past thirty years. Deaths of police officers, Sandinista activists, a teacher, a municipal worker and others are a consequence of violence on the part of protesters or criminals.

Since 22 April, large scale protests have continued, as have road blocks and sabotage, which is severely affecting the whole economy, particularly the tourist industry. In this chaotic situation there is a heightened level of fear and tension that takes a toll on everyone, especially those already impoverished and living on the margins. It has been a complete shock that a country with a stable growing economy and extensive investment in health, education, social programmes and infrastructure erupted into such violence so quickly.

How have people reacted?

What has happened is tragic: families and communities are mourning the deaths of loved ones and there is a generalised feeling of anxiety and insecurity. A country that saw a peaceful transition of power after the 1990 elections and has been stable for nearly three decades despite its previous history of violence has been plunged back into polarisation. For older people who lived through the contra war of the 1980s when 30,000 people lost their lives, the chaos has evoked extremely painful memories of the past. Passionate politics and protests are deep rooted in Nicaragua but the disregard for human life is what has profoundly shocked and horrified the whole country.

What has the role of the media and social media been in fanning the flames of polarisation?

The extraordinary power of social media has played a major role in what has happened. This is the way in which protesters have mobilised extremely effectively in huge numbers so quickly, but it means that it is difficult to discern fact from fiction, it acts as an echo chamber whereby people and the media cherry pick whatever information fits their narrative; this serves to intensify conflict and no-one knows where to get reliable information any longer. This feeds into hostile anti-government messages that are replicated in the media nationally and globally and rile people to extreme positions and/or actions.

So-called 'independent' commentators presented as 'experts' are using overblown, simplistic rhetoric to frame a very complex situation; this in turn fans the flames of polarisation and conflict.

What economic impact has the escalation of violence had?

Prior to the current wave of violence, tourism in Nicaragua was booming and the economy was set to grow by 5% in 2018. According to economist Nestor Avendano, Nicaragua's dramatic change of image abroad is already being felt. This will mean a fall in economic growth and foreign investment and a general deceleration of the economy. Given the susceptibility of the tourist industry, there is already a high level of cancellations, particularly affecting tourist towns of Leon, Granada, and San Juan del Sur. The losses to the country's economy are already estimated at US\$ 200 million.

What is already painfully clear is that those who will be affected most will be those who are most impoverished and living a hand to mouth existence on the margins in the barrios of the cities and in the countryside. They are the ones most affected by price rises, potential food shortages and threats to their livelihoods. This will particularly affect women.

What has the role of the US been in fuelling the conflict?

It is important to recognise the depth of the simmering anger and frustration against government errors particularly on the part of the students whose demands for a transparent investigation and calling to account of those responsible for the killings must be respected.

However, given the clearly stated aim of the US for 'regime change' in Nicaragua, there is a grave danger of grievances being politically manipulated.

The CIA Freedom Fighters Manual of the 1980s is full of helpful hints on how to destabilise and overthrow the government through measures such as spreading rumours, sabotaging state institutions and infrastructure and blocking highways: there is no reason to believe that the current CIA manual is any different. For the US, Daniel Ortega is unfinished business from the 1980s.

Over the weekend of 21 and 22 April, there was a wave of violence targeting social security offices, police stations, municipal authority offices, university buildings, government offices, and medical supply stores of the Ministry of Health. The speed of the escalation and the simultaneous events throughout the country appear to have all the hallmarks of a well co-ordinated, politically motivated operation designed to undermine the government and destabilise the country.

Between 2014 and 2017, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), awarded 55 grants totalling \$US4.2million to Nicaraguan NGOs opposed to the government. Representatives from some of these organisations travelled to Washington in 2016 and 2017 to lobby far right politicians to place sanctions on Nicaragua in what has become known as the NICA Act. NED was set up by the Reagan administration in 1983 in the wake of a storm of negative revelations about the CIA. Its purpose is to do overtly what the CIA had been doing covertly: meddling in the internal affairs of foreign countries.

It is also important to consider developments in Nicaragua in the context of US destabilisation internationally; the potentially dire repercussions of the Trump administration withdrawing from

the Iran nuclear deal, the building of a US embassy in Jerusalem, plans to build a wall to keep Mexicans out of the US...to name but a few examples.

Since coming to power, the Trump administration has intensified interventionist policies against Venezuela, Cuba and now Nicaragua. On 7 May, in a swearing in ceremony for Carlos Trujillo, the new US ambassador to the Organisation of American States (OAS), US vice president Mike Pence stated that working for 'freedom' in the three countries is a priority for the Trump administration: "We will stay by the side of those who long for freedom and we will confront their oppressors."

The intention is to bring Nicaragua into line and mould the country in the image of what the US considers an acceptable 'democracy'

Peace, justice, reconciliation and an end to violence

On 16 May, the National Dialogue was inaugurated involving all parties to the conflict: the government, business sector, civil society organisations, students and academics. The dialogue is being mediated and witnessed by the Bishops' Conference. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and other regional and international organisations will also be involved.

The National Assembly has set up a Truth Commission, who with the support of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, will carry out a broad and transparent investigation to determine who was responsible for the deaths and acts of violence so that they can be held to account.

To date, the violence has largely been confined to urban areas on the Pacific side of Nicaragua. However, there are grave concerns that the instability could spread to rural and more remote areas with the highest levels of extreme poverty in the country. This would be dangerous as they were far more affected during the contra war of the 1980s and any political polarisation could reopen old wounds. This is where reconciliation and peace is cherished so dearly and has been so hard fought to achieve. For this reason, alongside other peace initiatives, the cooperative movement has been meeting with other sectors of the social and popular economy to set up a parallel round table to contribute to peace and reconciliation and to be active and organised to prevent the violence from spreading.

What are the major challenges that Nicaragua faces?

The past weeks have been a stark reminder of the economic, social and political fragility of Nicaragua. However, just as the country is capable of extreme polarisation, protest and social unrest it is also capable of peace and reconciliation as history has shown. In the most difficult times the country has pulled back from the brink and pulled together with tolerance and understanding.

Some sectors are calling for regime change; however, even some of those opposed to the government accept that this would cause an extremely dangerous power vacuum.

The challenge for the National Dialogue is not only to address questions of justice, peace and reconciliation, but also to put in place new foundations that ensure that economic growth and stability and investment in health, education, social programmes and infrastructure development are maintained and strengthened.

Impact on Link Activities.

These events, and the confusion and dangers have impacted on day to day life in the whole of Nicaragua. Travel is difficult, if not dangerous, with road blocks set up by dissident groups, many of them armed with various weapons. Our representative, Carmela Hernandez, lives in Leon, about 35 miles from El Viejo. We know there have been disturbances in Leon, and in Chinandega, which is a few miles south of El Viejo, as well as road blocks by armed groups. Our advice to Carmela is that she should avoid travel until such time as the situation improves and travel becomes safe. Until then it will be necessary to suspend our contact with the schools in El Viejo. We know that Carmela has been in telephone contact with a couple of the teachers in El Viejo so contact has not been completely lost.

It is difficult at this distance to arrive at a single reason or event at the root of the current situation. Two years ago the present government was returned with 75% of the vote. There has been some concerns about micro government by the present administration and the Link has experienced this with Government intervention in a proposed project from Norwich for young adults, originally supported by the local Council in El Viejo who were 'advised' by the Government that the local organisations that would run the project were unacceptable.

This is a very worrying time for all concerned and we can only hope that the situation will return to normal as soon as possible.

We will update this report at the Committee.

Ralph Gayton
Link Secretary
7thn June, 2018

Report to Twinning committee
14 June 2018
Report of Director of business services
Subject Twinning Fund – Financial Position

Item

9

Purpose

This report informs the committee of the current financial position of the twinning fund.

Recommendation

To note the balance of the twinning fund is approximately **£4,164.50**

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority to provide a prosperous and vibrant city. The twinning associations contribute to the council's service plan priority by promoting and fostering links and exchanges of all kinds between people of Norwich and the twin cities.

Financial implications

There are sufficient funds within the twinning account to cover this request.

Ward/s: Not applicable

Cabinet member: Councillor Packer, health and wellbeing

Contact officers

Stuart Guthrie, democratic and elections manager 01603 212055

Background documents

None

Report

Twinning fund – financial position

1. The current financial position is as follows:

Twinning Budget		
C/F from 2017-2018		(2,104.50)
Spend 2018-2019	0.00	
Income 2018-2019		(2,060.00)
Balance		(4,164.50)

2. There has been no expenditure this financial year.
3. Members of the committee are reminded that applications for grants for twinning related activities can be made by completing a form and contacting the city council. The committee may also wish to put aside funding to support twinning associations to hold special events to celebrate anniversaries in Norwich or to visit twinned cities.
4. We recommend that all associations submit a request for funding for twinning activities in 2018-19 which can be considered at meetings of the committee. This way we can plan expenditure for events and ensure that there is a fair distribution of funding.
5. The committee will consider the annual grants to the twinning associations, and two requests for grant applications for twinning activities later on at this meeting.

Report to Twinning committee

14 June 2018

Item

10

Report of Director of business services

Subject Annual grants to the Twinning associations

Purpose

To ask committee to consider the annual grant to the four twinning associations

Recommendation

To approve the annual grants of £200 to each of the associations.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority to provide a prosperous and vibrant city. The twinning associations contribute to the council's service plan priority by promoting and fostering links and exchanges of all kinds between people of Norwich and the twin cities.

Financial implications

There are sufficient funds within the twinning account to cover these grants.

Ward/s:

Cabinet member: Councillor Packer - health and wellbeing

Contact officers

Stuart Guthrie, democratic and elections manager

01603 212055

Background documents

None

Report

1. The committee has regularly made an annual contribution of £200 to three of the Associations to help support their activities.
2. The Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link had previously received free use of committee rooms and postage and printing. However, the Link has reviewed this arrangement and would like to receive an annual contribution in line with the other associations. Since the beginning of the year, the link has no longer taken advantage of the free postage and printing facilities. It also intends to hold its committee meetings outside City Hall in future. It is therefore reasonable for the link to receive an annual contribution in line with the other associations.
3. The committee reviews these grants at its first meeting of the civic year. Members are therefore asked to consider making a contribution of £200 to each of the associations for 2018-19.

Report to Twinning committee

Item

14 June 2018

Report of Director of business services

11

Subject Application for a grant – 2019 Paul Cross Memorial Concert

Purpose

To notify the committee of the application for a grant from the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

Recommendation

To approve the grant of £250 to the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association to support the annual Paul Cross Memorial Concert.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority to provide a prosperous and vibrant city. The twinning associations contribute to the council's service plan priority by promoting and fostering links and exchanges of all kinds between people of Norwich and the twin cities.

Financial implications

There are sufficient funds within the twinning account to cover these grants.

Ward/s:

Cabinet member: Councillor Packer, health and wellbeing

Contact officers

Stuart Guthrie, democratic and elections manager

01603 212055

Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. An application form for a twinning committee grant has been received from the chair of the concert committee of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association. A copy of the grant application form, supporting letter from the chair of the organising committee and budget estimate are appended to this report. The association is seeking a grant from the twinning fund for £250.
2. The concert promotes the city's twinning friendship links with Novi Sad, and celebrates the music and culture of the area and increases awareness in Norwich. Performers from the Novi Sad are invited to perform at the annual concert and are hosted by members of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.
3. The committee has made an annual grant to the association for the concert each year since 2004.
4. The association appreciated the grant of £250 received for the 2018 concert.

Paul Cross Memorial concert

5. The purpose of the request is to enable the association to hold the Paul Cross Memorial Concert on Saturday, 19 January 2019 at the Norwich Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich. The concert is an annual classical music concert with performers attending from Novi Sad. Any profit from the concert is used to support an educational project which benefits children and young people with disabilities and special needs who attend the Milan Petrović School in Novi Sad. The association has close links with the school.
6. The concert committee has invited classical pianist, Alexandar Djermanovic, and flautist, Petar Popovic, to perform at the 2019 concert. It is proposed that the funding from the twinning committee will assist with the travel expenses for these two performers to fly from Novi Sad to the UK for the concert. Members of the association provide accommodation, transport and hospitality to the guest performers. The budget allocates £1,300 for the performers' air travel and expenses.
7. The association has been successful in the past receiving grants from the John Jarrold Trust and the Goodman Trust. This year a request has been made to the John Jarrold Trust for £100. Income is also generated through ticket sales to members of the association and public. It would appear from the business plan that the concert only just breaks even and is reliant on grant applications for printing and travel expenses.
8. The concert is held at the Norwich Assembly House in its Music Room. The estimated audience is 80 to 100 people. Ticket sales are sold through the association at £17 or £18 if purchased through the Theatre Royal box office. There is a concessionary price of £7 for students. The association has increased the price of tickets by £1 for 2019. The association is also holding a coffee morning and raffle to support the event.
9. The concert fulfils the aims of the twinning associations in that it promotes a better understanding of a shared culture and helps to promote informal links between

people and organisations in the city of Norwich and the county of Norfolk and is dedicated to furthering friendship between the two cities. The granting of £250 towards the costs incurred by the performers is therefore within the aims of the committee.



NORFOLK & NORWICH NOVI SAD ASSOCIATION

dedicated to fri

20th April 2018

The Chair

Norwich City Council Twinning Committee

City Hall

Norwich .

Dear Chair,

On behalf of the Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association I wish to apply for a grant £250 to help towards the 2019 Paul Cross Memorial Concert which is held annually to promote the friendship with our twin city of Novi Sad and to celebrate the music and culture of Novi Sad. It is also held in memory of a much-loved former chairman of the association, Paul Cross who did so much to promote the friendship between our two cities. Every year since 2000, some outstanding international musicians have travelled from Novi Sad especially to perform for us here in Norwich showing us how much they value our friendship. A grant would go towards funding the air travel for our two guest performers from Novi Sad.

The 2019 concert will be held on Saturday, 19th January 2019 at The Assembly House, Norwich. We are delighted that Aleksandar Djermanovic, piano, will be returning to perform a selection of classical pieces. He will be accompanying Petar Popović, flute, who will also perform solo flute with an emphasis on Serbian composers.

NNNSA is a voluntary group which aims to be self-sufficient through member subscriptions and fundraising at its social events to support the concert. We aim to cover the costs of the concert through the sale of tickets to our members and to the public, and have increased the price of our tickets for the next concert accordingly. We remain reliant, however, on the goodwill and generosity of our members in offering accommodation, transport and hospitality to our guest performers. We have always been grateful for the support and interest of the Twinning Committee.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Wendy Qu

Chair 2019 Paul Cross Memorial Concert Committee



Application for Twinning Committee Grant

The aims of the Twinning Committee are to "promote and foster Civic links and exchange activities of all kinds with Rouen, Novi Sad, Koblenz and El Viejo in Nicaragua and any other towns and cities abroad with which friendly associations are, from time to time, established". The policy of the Committee is to concentrate on making grants to assist visits by young people (excluding regular school exchanges), an initial visit to set up a new link and in cases of particular financial hardship.

1. Name and address of organisation/group applying for the grant

Name NORFOLK + NORWICH NOVI SAD ASSOCIATION



2. Name, address and contact details of individual applying for the grant



3. Position held within the organisation/group (please tick) N N N S A

Chair Secretary Treasurer Other (please state) Chair 2019 Concert Committee

4. Please describe fully why you are applying for a grant and which city or town you are forming links with?

- To enable NNNNSA to invite 2 performers from Novi Sad
- To promote the civic friendship with our twin city of Novi Sad and to celebrate the music and culture of Vojvodina, Serbia by holding The Paul Cross Memorial Concert in January 2019.

If the grant is to help towards the costs of a visit, please answer the following questions:

- a) How many people will be in the group making the visit? _____
- b) How many of these are under 18 years old? _____
- c) How many people in your organisation/group live in the Norwich City Council area? _____
- d) We need to establish if there is any particular financial hardship, please say if any members of the visiting group are unemployed or receiving other benefit support? _____

e) Has your organisation/group received any previous grant from the Twinning Committee? If yes, please say how much and when?

f) What is the total cost of this visit?

g) How much grant are you applying for?

h) Are you applying to any other organisation or business for grants? If yes, please say who to and for how much?

i) How will your organisation/group be paying for the visit?

5) It is a condition of the grant that your travel arrangements are made with a bonded travel company, which is a member of ABTA. Please confirm this requirement and give the name of your travel company

6) If the grant is for another purpose other than a visit, please give as much detail as you can by answering the following questions:

a) Please describe your project/event/activity and explain how it will further the aims of the Twinning Committee?

The annual Paul Cross Memorial Concert ^{to be} held 19th Janua 2019, to promote friendship and to make people in Norfolk & Norwich aware of the music + culture of Novi Sad.

b) What is the total cost of the project/event/activity? £2,080 (approx.) See sheet.

c) How much grant are you applying for? £250

d) Are you applying to any other organisation or business for grants? If yes, please say who to and for how much?

John Sould Trust (£100)

e) How will your organisation/group pay for the project/event/activity?

Sale of concert tickets to members and to the public.

If you need any help, have any questions about completing the application or require the application in another format or language please contact Democratic Services on 01603 213022 or email twinning@norwich.gov.uk Please use extra paper if you need more space and enclose a copy of you last set of accounts, if appropriate.

Please return your completed form to:
Twinning Grant Application
Democratic Services
Norwich City Council
City Hall
Norwich NR2 1NH

Estimated Budget for NNNSA January Concert 2019

Expenditure

Hire of venue/ The Norwich Assembly House Music Room Incl. PRS fee, piano and tuning plus	£520.00
Hobart room hospitality for Civic guests and other VIPs	
Ticket Sale Commission (taken off at theatre)	
Performers' air travel and expenses	£1300
Printing of flyers and programmes	£160
Sundries incl. postage costs / mail shot advertising	£100
TOTAL	£2,080 approx

Estimated Income

Sale of concert tickets through membership @ £17/students £7
and Theatre Royal Box office £18 / students £7

Programme sales @ £1.50

Fundraising

Raffle £150

Coffee morning

Grant applications to be made

Norwich City Council

John Jarrold Trust

TOTAL

To be assessed.

N.B. Ticket price has been increased by £1 for 2019.

We aim to have an audience of between 80 – 100

Hopefully, both musicians have EU status so no need to pay for Visas.

We can no longer apply to The Goodman Trust who funded our printing costs..

Last year, The John Jarrold Trust gave £100.