

## **NORWICH CITY COUNCIL**

**TWINNING COMMITTEE – 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2017**

### **REPORT OF NORFOLK AND NORWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK.**

First, an apology for this late report. Due to temporary problems with communication with our representative in Nicaragua, there has been little positive to report recently.

An important issue that we have attempting to deal with since the beginning of the year concerns the state of the latrines at the schools in El Viejo that are involved in our education project for children from the very poorest, and generally larger, families.

Outside the larger cities in Nicaragua mains drainage is non-existent and human waste is largely dealt with by earth closets, or, at best, very basic chemical closets.

This problem came to our notice last year as a result of growing absenteeism from lessons in our schools due to growing problems with the state of the basic school latrines. The Link decided to investigate to assess the scale of the problem, discover who was responsible for provision/maintenance of school latrines, and what action we might be able to take to improve the situation.

A survey of the situation at the scholarship schools was undertaken and the results are attached together with some photographs of the existing facilities. It is claimed that latrines are subject to abuse by members of the public when schools are closed resulting in damage to the structures.

Attempts to obtain information about where responsibility lies for the provision/maintenance of school latrines via our local representative have not been fruitful. Enquiries about where responsibility might lie have been met with either silence or evasion, including from the local council.

We intend to continue pursuing the issues of responsibility direct with the local Council and with the Provincial authorities and with the Ministry of education. In the meantime we will make a direct approach to the local Council and emphasising our concerns about the failure to take effective action in terms of both the effect on education as well as the moral and health interests of the children and the pressure on teaching staff.

Ralph Gayton  
Link Secretary.



School Evemilda Somarriba

1  
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2



3 – 4 Hermana Maritza





School – Rosario Mayorga - 1



Rosario Mayorga – 2



Francisco Morazan - 1



Francisco Morazan - 2





El Perpetuo – 1



El Perpetuo - 2



Norwich



NORFOLK AND NOWRICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK – SURVEY OF SCHOOL LATRINES

School	No of pupils	Boys	Girls	Separate-Boys latrine	Separate – Girls Latrine	Urinal for Boys?	Doors Y/N	Lockable externally	Internal fastening	Handwashing facilities	Condition of Latrines
Rosario Mayorga	203	101	102	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	<b>Very Bad</b>
Rosario Maritza	110	60	50	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	<b>Poor</b>
Norwich	118	75	41	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	<b>Poor</b>
El Recreo	31	18	13	1	1	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	<b>Good</b>
Amigas de Holanda	520	?	?	Y (7)	Y (7)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	<b>Poor</b>
El Perpetuo	187	103	84	No*	No*	No	No	No	No	No	<b>Very Bad</b>
Evemilda	110	71	75	Y (1)	Y (1)	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	<b>Poor</b>
Francisco Morazan	37	13	18	1	1	Yes	Yes	No	?	Yes	<b>Very Bad</b>
Rosario Marrinez	363	203	160	Y(2)	Y (2)	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	<b>Bad</b>

Note: Under ‘Condition’ the schools were asked to rate – Good, Poor, Bad, or VeryBad.