

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



## EXECUTIVE SERVICES

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### Chief Executive

Julie Beilby BSc (Hons) MBA

Gibson Building  
Gibson Drive  
Kings Hill, West Malling  
Kent ME19 4LZ  
West Malling (01732) 844522

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**NB - This agenda contains proposals, recommendations and options. These do not represent Council policy or decisions until they have received proper consideration through the full decision making process.**

Contact: Committee Services  
[committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk)

3 December 2014

To: MEMBERS OF THE TWINNING COMMITTEE  
(Copies to all Members of the Council)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Twinning Committee to be held in the Civic Suite, Gibson Building, Kings Hill, West Malling on Thursday, 11th December, 2014 commencing at 7.30 pm

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

## A G E N D A

### PART 1 - PUBLIC

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest

3. Minutes 5 - 8  
To confirm as a correct record the Notes of the meeting of the Twinning Committee held on 3 July 2014
4. Report of Twinning Officer 9 - 10
5. Report of Tonbridge French Circle
6. Report of Heusenstamm Friendship Circle
7. Report of Snodland/Moyeuivre Grand Twinning Association
8. Report of Burham/L'Epine Twinning Association
9. Report of Ditton Twinning Association
10. Report of East Peckham Twinning Association
11. Any Other Business
12. Urgent Items

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

**Matters for consideration in Private**

13. Exclusion of Press and Public

The Chairman to move that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of any items the publication of which would disclose exempt information.

**PART 2 - PRIVATE**

14. Urgent Items

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Mr M Dobson (Chairman)  
Cllr P J Homewood (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr D Still (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs J A Anderson  
Cllr J A L Balcombe  
Cllr V M C Branson  
Cllr F R D Chartres  
Cllr T Edmondston-Low  
Cllr Mrs C M Gale  
Cllr S R J Jessel  
Cllr S M King

Mr M Atkinson  
Mr N Brooks-Johnson  
Mr P Hickmott  
Mrs L Kirk  
Ms S Levett  
Mr D Packer  
Mr P Street  
Mr D Young

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## TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### TWINNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 3rd July, 2014

**Present:** Mr M Dobson (Chairman elect), Cllr P J Homewood (Vice-Chairman elect), Mr D Still (Vice-Chairman elect), Cllr V M C Branson, Cllr P J Homewood and Cllr S M King and Ms S Levett.

Cllr H S Rogers was also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

In attendance were Mr S Gregg and Ms L Bennett (Leisure Services)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, J A L Balcombe and Mrs C M Gale; and from Mr P Bisson, Mr B Buck, Mr D Packer, Mr P Street and Mr D Young.

#### **TWC 14/1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

#### **TWC 14/2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:** That Mr M Dobson be appointed as Chairman of the Twinning Committee for the current municipal year.

#### **TWC 14/3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMEN**

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor P Homewood and Mr D Still be appointed as Vice-Chairmen of the Twinning Committee for the current municipal year.

#### **TWC 14/4 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Twinning Committee held on 28 November 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **TWC 14/5 REPORT OF TWINNING OFFICER**

The Senior Leisure Services Officer, Ms L Bennett, presented the twinning officer's report on recent and forthcoming activity with Heusenstamm and Le Puy-en-Velay and made particular reference to the forthcoming celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the twinning between Tonbridge and Malling and Heusenstamm on 12/15 September 2014. The Committee noted that events over the weekend included visits to local places of historic interest, a 'Variety Night' and concert performances by the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band and

members of the Stadtkapelle Heusenstamm and the Tonbridge Dragon Boat Event. The twinning officer offered to circulate details of the weekend to committee members and advise which events they could be involved in. In response to a comment from Mr D Still regarding the Heusenstamm Friendship Wood at Haysden Country Park, the Leisure Services Manager (Development) offered to investigate whether this could be 'tidied up' in advance of the anniversary celebrations.

#### **TWC 14/6 REPORT OF TONBRIDGE FRENCH CIRCLE**

In the absence of Mr Buck a written report provided by the Circle was circulated at the meeting.

#### **TWC 14/7 REPORT OF HEUSENSTAMM FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

In the absence of Mr Packer a written report provided by the Circle was circulated at the meeting as an addition to the copies of 'Nachrichten' distributed with the agenda.

#### **TWC 14/8 REPORT OF MALLING/AUCHEL ASSOCIATION**

Although Mr Bisson was unable to attend the meeting and had submitted his apologies, his written report was submitted by the twinning officer. The Committee was saddened to note that the formal twinning between Malling and Auchel would end with a celebratory weekend on 20/21 September 2014 after just over thirty years of activity and exchanges.

#### **TWC 14/9 REPORT OF SNODLAND/MOYEUVRE GRAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

In the absence of Mr Hickmott, no report was submitted.

#### **TWC 14/10 REPORT OF BURHAM/L'EPINE TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

In the absence of Mr Young, no report was submitted. The committee noted that, in submitting his apologies Mr Young had advised that the twinning between Burham and L'Epine remained dormant.

#### **TWC 14/11 REPORT OF DITTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

In the absence of Mr Atkinson no report was submitted.

#### **TWC 14/12 REPORT OF EAST PECKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

In the absence of Mr Street, Councillor H Rogers gave an update on twinning Activities between East Peckham and Cherang. The Committee was advised that a group of residents from East Peckham would be visiting Cherang during the celebration of the Battle of Bourne which included a re-enactment event and a carnival.

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**

**TWC 14/13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

No matters were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

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## **Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council**

**Twinning Committee – Thursday 11 December 2014**

### **Twinning Report**

#### **Tonbridge Tennis Club and Le Puy Tournament**

Earlier this year, Tonbridge Tennis Club hosted an Anglo-French tennis tournament with a group of players from Le Puy. French visitors came over for the weekend of the 23 August and stayed with families from Tonbridge Tennis Club.

The match was held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> at the club facilities in Tonbridge and there was a buffet lunch for all involved after the match. The Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling, Cllr Mrs Sasha Luck, attended the event.

#### **30<sup>th</sup> Twinning Anniversary, Tonbridge and Heusenstamm**

Since the last meeting of this board, Members will be aware that a busy weekend of activities took place in September to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning between Tonbridge and Heusenstamm.

An official delegation from Heusenstamm, including Frau Ingrid Henninghausen, Herr Ulrich Hoeffken and Herr Uve-Peter Hajdu visited Tonbridge during the weekend of 13-14 September. The civic guests stayed at the Rose & Crown Hotel and enjoyed a varied cultural programme throughout their stay. In addition to these arrangements, the Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band had invited their twin band the 'Heuseenstamm Stadtkapelle' to come over and mark the anniversary with a joint concert between the two bands.

The weekend celebrations commenced with a formal dinner at the Rose & Crown which was attended by the Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling, Councillor Mrs Sasha Luck, who was accompanied by members of this twinning committee and a group from the Heusenstamm Friendship Circle. At this occasion, speeches were made by the Mayor and the civic guests from Heusenstamm and an exchange of gifts took place.

As the anniversary took place during the weekend of the national Heritage Open Days scheme, the German party were introduced to places of historical interest across the borough including Hadlow Tower and the Twitch Inn, West Malling. The official civic guests were also invited to attend the social evening hosted by The Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band and the Stadtkapelle Heusenstamm. Members of the Heusenstamm Friendship Circle also joined in with this activity and provided some of the entertainment!

Other events the German party visited during their stay included Tonbridge Castle Medieval Fair and Tonbridge Town Team's Dragon Boat Race. At this year's dragon boat event, the Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band and the Stadtkapelle Heusenstamm put in a joint team.

The anniversary celebrations finished with an informal dinner at the Vauxhall Inn.

The Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Chairman of the Twinning Committee, Mike Dobson and David Packer from Heusenstamm Friendship Circle for their support during this busy time. Their assistance with various elements throughout the weekend, including with transport and catering arrangements as well as accompanying the guests to their various engagements was much appreciated and provided a vital role to the success of the weekend.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Twinning Anniversary – Malling/Auchel**

The Malling Auchel Association contacted the Council earlier in the year advising them of the arrangements to celebrate 30 years of twinning with Auchel.

A weekend of activities was planned which included a visit to London, in particular the Thames Clipper boat at Greenwich, visits to the market and museum a short talk about the history of Greenwich in the Queen's House. An evening meal was held at the Moat, Wrotham.

Auchel offered the Malling Society a gift of a tree. It was agreed that the tree, and a commemorative plaque, would be installed in Macey's Meadow, near the cricket pavilion. The tree planting ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling, Cllr Mrs Sasha Luck. After the ceremony at Macey's Meadow, a civic reception was held at the Tonbridge & Malling's Council offices at Kings Hill. County Councillor, Trudy Dean, gave a financial contribution towards this project.

Earlier in the year, the Malling Auchel Association held a 'Boules' evening which was well supported and included a contingent from the Tonbridge Le Puy group.

Sadly as members have got older or moved away both associations have had depleting members over the years. As a result, it was decided that 30 years would be the right time to finish the formal twinning on a high note. It is anticipated that informal visits between the remaining families will continue with the occasional social event on the English side

### **Forthcoming Projects**

Heusenstamm Friendship Wood, Haysden Country Park

The Council received a request from Heusenstamm Friendship Circle regarding provision of a sign to increase profile behind the history of the Heusenstamm Friendship Wood. The Council, in liaison with Heusenstamm Friendship Circle, is working with a contractor to create the sign and it is hoped this will be installed early in the New Year.