



Newtown Twinning Association
January 18th 2018
Elephant and Castle 6.30 pm

Present: Catharyn, Richard, Paul, Fred, Steve, Liz, Jon, Andrew and Alwena.

Apologies: Kate, Cheryl and Kevin.

Minutes: Accepted and signed.

Finance update: Bank statement shows we have just below £3000.
Town Council Fund has £1000 remaining.

Richard will help with the process to access the fund, by using the action plan to create forward planning between March 31st of this year to April 1st 2019.

The music festival will use up most of our available funds.

Action Plan: Music Festival. The High School has been booked from Friday evening through the weekend to Sunday afternoon, at a cost of £50 for each whole day. The Elephant and Castle has also been provisionally booked for the Sunday evening concert.

Andrew has designed a hosting application form, which has been modified according to useful comments made by the committee. This form also has the potential to send information about us when we go to France.

Erasmus: 3 students have already been in touch with their hosts and business contacts. We feel it would be good to have a get-together sometime during their stay, between business hosts, students and the committee.

On a practical level, we hope that hosts could provide a lunch each work day, especially as they are being paid for the students' keep. If the students wish to use their lunchtime to make wifi contact, there are plenty of places in town that have it freely available.

Travel: The students will land at Birmingham airport at 1.05 pm on February 17th. We decided that we could buy their rail tickets for the journey to Newtown in advance and send them to France, which would be cheaper and easier for the students. Their stay here will end on Saturday, 3rd of March, and Steve will work out their best travel options for returning by rail to Birmingham.

Annual Dinner: The Michelin starred chef, now working at the Elephant and Castle has designed a St David's Day menu, which looks very good. The deadline for making choices will be a week before the dinner [the 16th] and will leave us time to chase those who have forgotten. The Erasmus students will be contacted by email beforehand.

We shall be asking someone to be speaker at the dinner and Barry Hoban, president of the Hafren Cyclist Club was deemed a good choice, as he will be going to Les Herbiers for the Chrono. There will be no payment for his speech, but we would pay for his meal.

It was decided to hold a raffle to raise some funds.

Chrono proposal: Andrew has contacted Sue Newham, our mayor, and the cycling club about going to the Chrono in the 3rd week of October. Both parties are keen to go. We could organise the coach, with a trailer for the bicycles, and the non-participating cyclists will travel with committee members. The professionals will travel independently.

Jum'Regal: As yet, no date has been set for the Jum'Regal, which leaves us with some difficulties, potentially trying to fill two coaches to go to France a few weeks' apart. We could ask the French to avoid the last weekend in November, because that is the date for turning on the Christmas lights in Newtown.

We have been asked to go as guests of honour to the Chrono, but Catharyn pointed out that it would be best to do this next year when there would be no Jum'Regal. The cyclists could still go under their own steam this year.

Website: The town council twinning page will stay as it is and will have an active link to our own site.

Andrew reported that the membership forms have been uploaded but are not yet active, but the email contact is up and running. Merchandise will not be available for purchase through the website.

Andrew is grateful to Darren, designer of the website, for his level of cooperation, helping to load information to the different pages, but photographs and articles would have to be the next step, after he's been paid. We all agreed that the website looks impressive and will be a boon to us keeping everyone abreast of what's going on.

Loading the minutes will show anyone interested how we are running our affairs.

Film Night: The Christian Centre will be available from 6.00pm to set up the equipment and if those helping could arrive shortly after that, it won't take long to arrange the tables and refreshments. Fred has the glasses and Liz and Jon have purchased wine and cheese.

AOB: Music In two weeks' time everything will start to move. Next Thursday's subcommittee meeting will be important.

Picnic in the Park: Set for Sunday 22nd of July.

Next Meeting: February 8th at 6.30 in the Elephant and Castle.

Signed:

Dated: