

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER, 2022  
BRIEFING NOTE  
TAVISTOCK TWINNING ASSOCIATION – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Town Council has a longstanding policy of committing an allocation, typically iro £250, in the Budget each year toward Town Twinning initiatives.
- 1.2 The Mayor is currently also Vice Chairman of the Twinning Association and, in the latter capacity, has submitted a request on its behalf for deployment of the allocated budget as outlined below:-

*Subject: Tavistock Twinning Association*

*Tavistock Twinning Association (TTA) has not received visitors from our twin towns, Pontivy and Celle, since 2019 because of Covid. A small contingent of TTA members went to Pontivy this year and were warmly received. We are now preparing to receive a group from Pontivy at the end of April / beginning of May 2023. We understand that there is considerable interest from our French counterparts but we don't have numbers yet. Historically we can expect between 20 and 25 guests, but numbers have been lower in some years. We do not yet know when twinning visits will be re-established with Celle but they too have expressed interest in coming to Tavistock sometime next year. Hopefully I will know more when I go to Celle as Mayor later this month.*

*Tavistock Twinning Association is funded from members subscriptions, normally £20 pp pa, and fundraising events. Funds raised are used to entertain our French and German guests. Members of TTA accommodate guests in their own homes, entertain them during "family time" and transport them to group activities. TTA funds are not usually used to benefit TTA members, who pay their own way. Covid has prevented the Association from staging fundraising events and membership subscription was temporarily reduced to a token £1 pp pa as we were not undertaking any twinning activities. As a consequence, we currently only have funds in the sum of approx £1600. We have resolved to return the annual subscription to £20 with immediate effect and we are organising a fundraising event in January. These actions should help to put the Association back in funds.*

*Tavistock Town Council has a budget line for twinning in the sum of £250 per annum. We did not call on this in 2020/21 or 2021/22. The purpose of this email is to inquire whether it might be possible for this financial year's allocation of £250 to be given as a one-off donation to the Twinning Association to assist in reinstating twinning visits and entertaining our guests. I anticipate that in May 2023 the Association*

*will seek a civic reception to receive our French guests. I understand the Mayor would be minded to attend! It has been customary for TTC to host a lunchtime reception in the Town Hall or Butchers' Hall and provide a buffet lunch. We would ask that the £250 twinning budget for 2023-24 be again used for that purpose.*

- 1.3 The reason this is tabled as an item for the Committee and Council is that the requested spend, whilst falling over two financial years (and therefore provided for in the budget line), may or may not fall over two civic years - depending on timings.
- 1.4 More generally the proposal is consistent with budget allocations and associated purpose and, as such, appears worthy of support.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The views of the Committee and Council are sought.

**CARL HEARN  
TOWN CLERK  
DECEMBER 2022  
TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL**