

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>21 January 2019</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>FRIENDSHIP RESOLUTION – HUCKNALL AND WADSWORTH, OHIO</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR JASON ZADROZNY</b>		
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL HUCKNALL WARDS</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>		
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>YES</b>		

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to;

- Introduce the proposed Friendship Resolution between Wadsworth and Hucknall;
- Highlight Ashfield District Council's strong history of international friendship resolutions;
- Note the history of Wadsworth, Ohio and the common ground it shares with Hucknall;
- Note the aims of the Friendship Resolution and how it can benefit Ashfield District Council

### **Recommendations**

**Cabinet is requested to;**

- 1. Note the information contained in this report;**
- 2. Consider the proposed Friendship Resolution with Wadsworth, Ohio and if so minded, approve it.**

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

A formal friendship resolution has been proposed between the townships of Wadsworth, Ohio and Hucknall by representatives from Wadsworth.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

- While it is not in keeping with Ashfield District Council tradition, Cabinet could consider declining the proposal of a friendship resolution between Hucknall and Wadsworth.

- Cabinet could consider any amendments to the proposed friendship resolution.

## **Detailed Information**

### **Introduction**

A friendship resolution has been proposed between the Township of Wadsworth, Ohio, United States, and the Township of Hucknall. The proposed Friendship Resolution aims to establish a collaborative relationship between Hucknall and Wadsworth, where both townships can work cooperatively towards mutual future objectives.

Representatives from Wadsworth have previously visited Hucknall to help forge cooperation between the two communities, and build on existing common ground. These visits, along with the prevailing shared development objectives of Wadsworth and Hucknall, led to a desire for the establishment of a formal friendship resolution.

Ashfield District Council has a strong history of negotiating, maintaining and enjoying numerous friendship resolutions internationally, and has previously worked collaboratively with, among others;

- Giumri, District of Shirak, Armenia;
- Argostoli, Kefalonia, Greece;
- Missolonghi, Greece;
- Łódź, Poland.

### **Ronchin and Kirkby in Ashfield Twinning and Friendship Agreement**

Kirkby in Ashfield has been formally twinned with Ronchin, France since 9 June, 2001. The twinning arrangement was negotiated by the Kirkby in Ashfield District Twinning Association, and further endorsed by Ashfield District Council with an additional friendship agreement.

The aims of the Kirkby in Ashfield District Twinning Association were to maximise the involvement of all sections of the community and promote the link between Kirkby in Ashfield and Ashfield District with its twin town.

The objectives were to ensure a better knowledge of the twinning link amongst the people of the District with the view to the stimulation of links between two communities through cultural, educational, sporting and commercial activities. In addition, advice, encouragement and support could be given to local organisations and individuals wishing to undertake visits with the twin town.

Following the twinning arrangement in 2001, the Council and fellow Twinning Association representatives have enjoyed many visits to Ronchin and have received and welcomed parties to Kirkby in Ashfield for various events including:

- Party of Ronchin school children came to Kirkby in Ashfield and visited the Mill Adventure Base at Kings Mill Reservoir, Kirkby College and Sherwood Forest (June 2002);
- Group of Twinning Association Members, accompanied by Newstead Brass Band, visited Ronchin and played at the Town Hall, the School of Music and at various concerts (April 2003);

- 'Pedal Escapade' event whereby Kirkby in Ashfield hosted a party of 30 disabled cyclists from the Ronchin area to enable them to take part in a sponsored cycle ride using 4-seater pedal cycles. The idea was conceived by French representatives to commemorate the 'European Year of the Disabled' and to strengthen the link between the two towns by encouraging participation in this type of event (April 2004);
- Party of 25 musicians from the Ronchin Swing Band visited Kirkby in Ashfield to play a series of concerts including at Nottingham Castle (June 2005);
- 20 Ronchin pupils plus teachers made an exchange visit to Ashfield School (June 2007);
- a party of members and local musicians went to Ronchin and Halle as part of a European Twin Band Tour (November 2008);
- Celebrations took place in Kirkby in Ashfield to mark the 10-year anniversary of the town being twinned with Ronchin (June 2011);
- The Ronchin Choirs (both adult and teenage) continue to visit Kirkby in Ashfield on a yearly basis in connection with the Ashfield Vocal Ensemble Choir.

Although the proposed collaboration between Wadsworth and Hucknall is not a formal twinning, the success of the ongoing arrangement between Ronchin and Kirkby in Ashfield provides a clear testament to the benefits of international friendship agreements.

## **Friendship Resolution**

Wadsworth is a city in Medina County, Ohio, United States, that features numerous commonalities with Hucknall;

- Similar heritages;
  - Coal mining;
  - Aviation;
  - Manufacturing.
- Common employment bases in;
  - Aviation;
  - Automotive;
  - Technology.
- Common objectives to;
  - Retain and preserve local history;
  - Strengthen economic development;
  - Develop social links and cultural ties;
  - Improve community parks and town centres.

The proposed Friendship Resolution between Hucknall and Wadsworth is built on these commonalities, with an overarching objective to strengthen the existing relationship and forge new friendship ties between the two communities.

By accepting the proposed Friendship Resolution with Wadsworth, Ashfield District Council will continue to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to collaborative working and furthering community engagement.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

The Friendship Agreement whilst not directly linked to the Corporate Plan is aligned with many of the Corporate Plan priorities.

### **Legal:**

Legal services will provide guidance and assistance in relation to the formal acceptance of the friendship agreements.

### **Finance:**

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	The agreement does not result in any financial contributions or costs to the Council
General Fund – Capital Programme	Nil
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	Nil
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	Nil

### **Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
There is a risk that in the future the agreement could generate costs to the Authority in terms of officer time or finance	If costs begin to be incurred the Council would need to consider its willingness to meet the costs against the need to provide for its core functions.

### **Human Resources:**

There are no human resource issues arising

### **Equalities:**

Not applicable

### **Other Implications:**

Not applicable

### **Reason(s) for Urgency**

None.

### **Reason(s) for Exemption**

None.

## **Background Papers**

Friendship Resolution documents attached as Appendix A and Appendix B.

## **Report Author and Contact Officer**

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