

**Report to:** Council

**Report Ref:** C1904  
**Meeting Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019  
**Agenda Item:** 10  
**Prepared By:** Town Clerk



**Subject:** Twinning Arrangements

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

Town twinning was initially developed following World War II as part of bridging the gap between distance communities across the European continent. Its focus was on bringing together the citizens of different counties and cultures. In 1981 Knutsford was twinned with Montmorency, a commune in the northern suburbs of Paris.

There was previously a Twinning Association, although it is apparent that this is still active. The Town Mayor is contacting personnel involved in the association to ascertain its status. It is noted that in 2010 the Town Council resolved to write to the association to ask if it required support from the town council. It is not known if the town's twinning arrangement is currently celebrated by any organisations. The town boundary sign on Tabley Hill Lane notes the twinning arrangement and in the past there have been civic visits, sporting club games and the like.

Twinning arrangements vary greatly from town to town with some still having active reciprocal arrangements and some having faded like Knutsford.

The Town Mayor has raised the issue of reigniting arrangements with Montmorency, in part as he is due to be on holiday in France during the summer. The Town Mayor has discussed the idea with the Executive Principal at Knutsford Academy where the governors have supported pursuing twinning arrangements between the schools.

## 3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

Council should consider whether it wishes to explore reigniting the town's twinning arrangements with Montmorency.

