

AGENDA ITEM 4

Kursk Friendship Link

The Kursk Friendship Link was first considered by the City Council in 2004, arising from the aims and objectives of Chris Holgate's' Charity, the Fire Safety Friends of Russia.

To advance the education and welfare..... in the subjects of fire prevention and safety, firefighting and the prevention and treatment of burns and similar injuries.....and to promote understanding and development of positive international relations

A formal signing ceremony took place in Kursk in 2006, the City Council being represented by the then Mayor, Councillor Rob Campling.

Delegations have visited the city twice and were hosted by past Mayors, the late Michael Woolley, and Councillor Anne Scicluna. Since then, some limited formal correspondence has continued. In the past year, attempts to link up via a 'virtual tour of Chichester' with Kursk during the Covid lockdown proved unsuccessful.

Of the options open to the City Council i.e. to do nothing or sever the link completely, Councillors may consider whether putting the Friendship Link in abeyance and revisiting the situation, say in six months, represents a prudent solution due to current daily uncertainties and respects the position of Russian people who do not support the present conflict.

Rodney Duggua

Town Clerk