

**WALLED TOWNS FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
3 SEPTEMBER 2005**

TYL'S HOUSE, POLICKA, CZECH REPUBLIC

Present:

Councillor John Price	(President, in the Chair)
Vojka Stular	(Deputy President)
Chris Lines	(Secretary General)
Medwyn Jones	(Treasurer)
Nada Zajc	Piran
Terry Ralph	Chester
Peter Van Roosmalen	Denbosch
Linda Thorp	Conwy
Franz Tades	Drosendorf
Nicola Mullholland	Carrickfergus
Eric Ferguson	Carrickfergus
Diego de Carlo	Verona
Arnaldo Vecchietti	Verona
Caba Pozarko	Pecs
Zoltan Horvath	Pecs
Aleksandar Petreski	Ohrid
Chief Executive	Ohrid
Maud Arkestein van Willigen	Naarden
Jacub Skalnik	Policka
Petra Martinu	Policka
John Benyon	Tenby
Jose Luis Munoz	Plasencia
Paulo Sanchez	Plasencia
Roberto Rubiolo	Plasencia
Joe Spiteri	Valletta
David Bruce	Academic Adviser

Apologies

John Sciberras
Eamon McEneaney
Luigi Rossetto
Anne Scicluna
Dragomir Mislenjac
Francis Tabone
Bob Storey
Peter Osbourne (Life President)
Klaus Rohder

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The President of the Circle, Councillor John Price, welcomed all delegates to the meeting and thanked Policka City Council for allowing the Circle to use Tyl's House for its meeting.

MINUTES

It was agreed to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee held on the 31 May 2005 in Denbosch, Holland.

MATTERS ARISING FROM AGM

“E”.Executive Meetings

The issue, raised at the last Annual General Meeting, regarding the possibility of having “virtual” meetings or some other kind of electronically staged meetings, rather than always having to make the time and bear the expense of travelling to venues all over Europe, was discussed.

It was agreed to **1)** take the view that there were numerous benefits for delegates actually meeting face to face and therefore on balance actual meetings should continue but that if possible the time involved for delegates in attending be kept to a minimum and **2)** the matter be further discussed at the next Executive Committee in Pecs.

“ARCHWAY” UPDATE

The Secretary General and Project Leader of Archway brought members up to date on the progress of the project following the first workshop dealing with “Conservation” held in Denbosch in April and the first workshop dealing with “Transport” held in Valletta in June.

It was agreed to note the successful progress of the project and the partners be thanked for their continuing support and hard work.

INVOLVEMENT OF SCHOOLS WITH THE CIRCLE – UPDATE

Piran/Valletta/Soave

The Piran delegates reported that the Mayors of the three towns had been invited into local schools to witness the project involving the joint building of model town walls. Information between schools in the three towns continued to be shared and that exchanges between schools and teachers were continuing.

Chester

It was reported that the “Seen” project(as detailed in the last newsletter) was continuing well and a special website had been constructed, so that schools in other countries can contact schools in Chester and each other to aid exchanges. It was also suggested that some of the children involved in the project may be able to attend the Symposium in Verona to tell delegates what they were doing within their project.

Denbosch

It was reported that at the Symposium in Denbosch in April, the planned digital programme to make contact with other schools was progressing. The particular project was called “Webquest” and Peter Van Roosmalen gave details of website addresses so delegates could check on the progress of the project.

It was agreed to note with great pleasure the excellent progress being made in partner towns involving our young people.

SYMPOSIUM 2006 – VERONA

Arnaldo Vecchietti submitted his draft proposals for the Circle’s 16th Symposium, to be held jointly in Verona, Mantua and Venice in the week commencing the 11 September 2006.

He reported on discussions that he had had with the President and the Secretary General, in order to ensure that the Circle’s requirements for the Symposium were adequately provided for in the arrangements.

He reported that there would always be some special challenges when two or more co-host towns were involved in staging any Symposium, but that he and his colleagues were working on meeting these challenges.

Arnaldo submitted his draft programme for the event and requested feedback on the proposals from delegates. He particularly outlined arrangements that would be made for presentations by both member towns and schools from member towns.

It was agreed that

a) initial comments be recorded as follows:

- There is a need to ensure the correct balance between work sessions and social sessions.
- Following the presentations to be made at the Symposium, time be allowed for other towns to give views on the topics raised.
- Again attention be given to the arrangement of a parallel programme for partners of delegates.

- b) Further views on the initial proposals be sent to President, Secretary General and Arnaldo Vecchietti within two weeks from this meeting, to help with planning for the event.

FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

The Treasurer submitted his report, detailing the Circle's bank balances as at 1 January 2005, total income and total expenditure and details of surplus to date.

The President gave details of a meeting he and the Secretary General were arranging with the local branch in Chester of a major American Bank in order to try to attract major sponsorship for the Circle.

It was agreed a) to receive the Treasurer's financial statement and thank him and Janet Bourhill at Circle Secretariat offices, for their work in ensuring all members paid subscriptions. b) that the receipts and invoice procedure for the Circle be streamlined as much as possible and a list of all associate members be provided for all members of the circle. c) arrangements be made for associate members to receive membership cards to demonstrate their membership of the organisation.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT – TIMETABLE

The President reminded members that his current period of office as President would terminate in September 2006. Nominations would be invited for the office early in 2006 with any elections held during the Symposium in Verona in September 2006.

It was agreed to note the arrangements.

WORLD WALL TOWN OF THE YEAR AWARD – DRAFTING OF CRITERIA

It was agreed that a) a small panel of members be convened consisting of Arnaldo Vecchietti, Vojka Stular, Peter Van Roosmalen, John Sciberras and the President, communicate electronically, to produce some ideas, for the criteria to be established for the award in the future and b) a final decision be made at the next Executive Committee in Pecs in March 2006.

SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

The Secretary General submitted his report, outlining his duties on behalf of the Circle between the period June to September 2005. Activities included;

- Project Leader of Archway;
- Work supporting the Chester & North Wales Branch of the Circle;
- Promotional work at the Chester Lord Mayor's Show;
- Assistance with the set up of the Irish link with the Circle;
- Preparations for and delivery of talks promoting the WTFC and Archway in England and Ireland;
- Preparation of the Circle newsletter.

It was agreed that the Secretary General's activities be noted with satisfaction

ACADEMIC ADVISER'S REPORT

David Bruce outlined work he was undertaking on behalf of the Circle in his role as Academic Adviser, including;

- work on Archway,
- supporting work by students dealing with tourism projects involving the WTFC

He requested the Circle agree that an honorary award be made to one of these students, Joanne Hornby, of free associate membership of the Circle for one year, as an acknowledgment of her work and reference to the Circle in her dissertation.

David also gave details of a new publication on walled towns which was available and recommended that copies be bought on behalf of the Circle.

It was agreed to note the report, agree the award of the honorary one year associate membership to Joanne Hornby and copies of the publication on walled towns be purchased for the Circle.

CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

The Secretary General reported that he was collecting material for publication in the next edition of the Circle's newsletter and requested delegates to provide him with any information and/or photographs they would wish to see included in the publication.

CIRCLE WEBSITE

The President reported on work to update the Circle website, including the work on the new newsletter ("BLOG") element of the site.

He urged all delegates to send information to him that they would wish to see included in the Circle's website.

NEW MEMBER TOWNS JOINING THE CIRCLE

The President reported his delight that Chichester District in England and Ohrid in Macedonia had agreed to take membership of the Circle.

The President introduced Mr Aleksandar Petreski, the Mayor of Ohrid, who together with his Chief Executive gave members an excellent presentation about the history and information concerning his town, which was situated in the south of his country on the banks of Lake Ohrid near to the Greek border.

It was agreed to note with pleasure Chichester District and Ohrid joining the Circle and the Mayor of Ohrid be thanked for his informative presentation.

FUTURE SYMPOSIA – LOCATION

It was confirmed that the future symposia of the Circle be held in:

Verona –	September 2006
Plasencia –	? 2007
Canterbury (provisional) –	? 2008
5 Maltese towns -	? 2009
Xi'an (provisional) -	? 2010

Arising

Plasencia, Spain

The delegates from Plasencia thanked the Circle for allowing them to host its symposium in 2007 and indicated their pride at the award.

They indicated that they were hoping to time the symposium in their town with another event during March/April, which would have the effect of creating a forum, which would be linked with South American walled towns and other Iberian Peninsula walled towns.

The delegates invited the President to attend a conference that they had arranged in their town during October where he could talk about the work of the Circle and the possibility of extending the Circle network to South American towns

It was agreed to thank the delegates for their presentation and their plans to extend the influence of the Circle and the development of their project.

FUTURE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next Executive Committee meeting be held in Pecs in Hungary, on a date to be arranged in March 2006 and that the possibility of a 2007 Executive Committee being held in Ohrid, be further considered.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

October Conference – Denbosch

Peter Van Roosmalen gave details of a conference he and his colleagues were organising in Denbosch between the 25 and 28 October as part of their year long celebrations of walled towns. He reported that the conference would be entitled “The Fortress as a Corset” and that representatives of the Circle had already agreed to attend.

It was agreed to note and welcome the event.

Police Conference – Community Safety

The President reported that plans were being made for a Community Safety Conference to be held in Chester during June 2006. The Conference would involve Police representatives from Chester and its twin towns in Italy, France and Germany who would discuss ways to improve safety of citizens in our community. He extended a welcome to all Walled Towns members to attend the Conference if they can, details would be circulated in the near future.

It was agreed to note the event.

Future of the Circle

Peter Van Roosmalen explained some of his ideas for strengthening and developing the Circle. These included joint Euro funded projects and closer involvement of member towns in various ways. He urged that the balance between the Circle's social activities and work related activities be re-addressed and that consideration should be given to having a board of members set up to assist the President in taking the Circle forward.

It was agreed to note Peter's comments and he be requested to produce a report for further consideration at the next meeting of the Executive Committee in Pecs in March 2006.