

## Agenda item 4

For decision – A proposal to sign a Partnership (Twinning) with Pieve di Soligo, Italy.

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### Background

Some 40 years ago, Twinning took place between Murrhardt in Germany followed by Chateau Gontier in France. More recently also with Rabka-Zdròj in Poland. The Charters were signed by the Town Councils of each town and all four towns are Twinned together. Strong relationships developed between the original towns of Frome, Murrhardt and Chateau Gontier. As has now been the case with Rabka-Zdròj. Frome Town Council help to manage Twinning by providing some staff hours and a small budget.

The present model of Twinning is an annual meeting in one of the towns and this is known as the Quadripartite meeting.

Frome Twinning Association (FTA), formed almost from the start, were very active in those early years and fostered strong links and friendships. Many of those who were there at the beginning are still involved in some capacity today. However, not being able to attract new members, particularly younger members, and with a decreasing active membership, it has become increasingly difficult for FTA to operate. Community engagement is minimal.

The Quadripartite model is no longer sustainable nor desirable. The cost and organisational pressures outweigh any ongoing or lasting benefit to the people of Frome. Chateau Gontier are having similar discussions.

### The Proposal

1. Instead of the Quadripartite approach, it is proposed, for Frome to focus on establishing partnerships between organisations, schools, commerce, sports clubs, etc in the partner towns. This is what I have been actively working towards in recent years and to act a facilitator for groups and partners to then develop relationships, with as many or as few of the partner towns, as desired. This would involve minimal, if any FTC time or funding.
2. For Pieve di Soligo, Italy, to become the fifth town. It has approx. 12,000 inhabitants and is in northern Italy in the Province of Treviso in Veneto, Italy. It is about 1 hour drive from Venice. Frome would sign a Partnership Agreement with Pieve di Soligo, along with the other three partner towns. It would provide Frome with another European partner town and extends our outlook beyond our boundaries.



Location of Pieve di Soligo in Italy



This will enable Frome to establish a new partnership model that better serves the people of Frome, particularly our young people as they go out into the world.

### Recommendations

1. Adopt a new twinning approach based on enabling specific partnerships between like-minded organisations in Frome and our twin towns.
2. Approve Pieve di Soligo as our fifth twin town.
3. Delegate to Cllr Campagna to lead on twinning matters for FTC.