

260505 – Item 28 - BETTON TWINNING VISIT AUGUST 2026

Moretonhampstead's twinning with Betton in Brittany is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. This is a remarkable achievement, reflecting the commitment of residents and the Twinning Associations in both towns to maintaining and strengthening this relationship.

Last year, Cllr Fileman-Wright joined the Twinning Visit for the 50th anniversary celebrations in Betton. Betton's Mayor and Deputy Mayor hosted the events, which included speeches, a dinner and dancing. The Deputy (equivalent of the local MP) also attended.

This year, guests from Betton will visit Moretonhampstead. They will arrive during Carnival week on Saturday 22nd August and depart on Friday 28th August.

It is proposed that the Parish Council hosts an event during the visit to celebrate 50 year milestone.

Following discussions with the Twinning Association, the following is proposed:

- The Parish Council's reception would place from 3.30-5pm on Wednesday 26th August at The Sentry (weather permitting), or in the Parish Hall.
- The event would be for our French guests, their host families and friends of the Twinning Association who are not hosting.
- The Council will provide a cream tea, cakes and refreshments, funded by the Chair's discretionary budget, which was unspent in 2025/26.
- Councillors are invited and welcome to attend. The Chair of the Parish Council will give a short speech to mark the occasion.
- The Twinning Association will book the Parish Hall to prepare for the event or to hold it in the event of bad weather.

Recommendation

It is proposed that the Parish Council agrees to:

- host an event as part of this year's Twinning visit
- allocate a budget of up to £100 (from the underspent Chair's fund from 2025/26)
- delegate the final details of the event to Cllr Fileman-Wright and Clerk.

Paper by Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright