

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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# CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CONFIDENTIAL

Strasbourg 26 January 1983

AS/Loc/Prix (34) 68

## PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL PLANNING AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize and  
the propagation of the European idea

EUROPE PRIZE



Supplementary information concerning the candidature  
of the BOROUGH OF EASTLEIGH (Hampshire) United Kingdom

- Letter of the Chief Executive
- Replies to the questionnaire

/see also AS/Loc/Prix (33) 65/

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24 January 1983

I have pleasure once again in submitting my Council's application for the European Flag of Honour Award.

1983 marks the 20th Anniversary of our twinning link with Villeneuve-Saint-Georges and the Council hope, most earnestly, that the award of the Flag to Eastleigh will coincide with this year's special celebrations. This would give cause for great pride in the Borough and would be a tremendous fillip to the large number of inhabitants involved in twinning and promotion of the European idea.

... The long-established links with Villeneuve-Saint-Georges and more recently, Kornwestheim, have been hugely successful and the enclosed application will, I hope, amply demonstrate Eastleigh's enthusiastic and dedicated involvement in European affairs.

Our two twin towns of Villeneuve-Saint-Georges and Kornwestheim have both been awarded the Flag of Honour for their twinning activities and the Council sincerely trust that this year will see similar recognition of Eastleigh's contribution to the cause of European friendships and links. I am sure that if support is needed the Mayor of Villeneuve-Saint-Georges and the Oberburgermeister of Kornwestheim would be only too willing to commend this application to you.

Chief Executive

Question 1: Membership in organisations of local authorities

Reply

Yes, the Council of European Municipalities and the International Union of Local Authorities.

Question 2: Contribution to their activities

Reply

Not yet, although as we are now developing conference and exhibition facilities of a high standard we would be most enthusiastic to host such events.

The current year (in which we celebrate the 20th anniversary of our link with Villeneuve-Saint-Georges in France) is probably an appropriate one to take an initiative in this direction and enquiries are being made on what is the best way to start.

Our town as winner of several awards for conservation of housing (the Times RICS Conservation Award and RIBA Good Design in Housing) was an active participant in the European Architectural Heritage Year and the Council was also selected to contribute to the British effort for the European Urban Renaissance Year because of this project.

Question 3: "Twinning activities"

Reply

The most active twinning links have been between the local authorities concerned and schools, but sports clubs have also developed strong links. The Eastleigh Rugby Club and Pirelli General Football Club are among the most active participants with regular exchange matches being held. Tripartite swimming galas have become a regular feature of the relationship our Swimming Club have had with their counterparts.

Question 4: Other relations with municipalities abroad

Reply

As part of our own continuing international interests informal links are being developed with Denmark and the USA, although these have yet to be formalised. Successful though our official links have been, we have not allowed ourselves to stand still and these further links are being fostered with Denmark (via the Mommarkskole at Tandslet). Annual visits have been established particularly between our colleges and local industry. We have an established connection with Temple Terrace in Florida, USA. (through a junior football club exchange and reciprocated mayoral visits).

The Eastleigh Boys' Brigade has a connection with a Danish band with annual visits one way or the other.

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## Question 5: Exchange of persons

Reply

Student visits are also arranged by a least eight language schools and Eastleigh is host to hundreds of European students during the summer learning the English language in such organisations as Organisation Scolaire Franco-Britannique, Vacances Studieuses and Eurolanguage

Exchanges between individuals are difficult to achieve because of the need for data banks of families and individuals wishing to exchange, and the problem of ensuring compatibility. However, it has been proposed this year, as part of the 20th anniversary celebrations, to try to set up some sort of data exchange at each of the three twin towns.

As a direct result of twinning a number of marriages have taken place and in particular two young Englishmen who have married French girls now live in France and work for an English agricultural firm. One of these has founded a rugby team and matches are played with the Eastleigh Rugby Team.

## Question 6: Organisation of European events

Reply

The Anglo-Polish Society referred to in 10 below has a group which maintains the traditions of Polish national song and dance with an annual celebration from the region of Eastleigh.

Eastleigh has participated in the Villeneuve Trade Fair and the Council's Sports Centre at Fleming Park has become a venue for international sport, including table tennis and basketball. In March we are the host of a European league table tennis match between England and West Germany at Fleming Park. Our basketball team, Solent Stars, competed in the European Cup and competed against top sides in Europe. A Dutch team and an Israeli team came to Eastleigh as part of this competition.

For the 20th anniversary celebrations in 1983 with Villeneuve-Saint-Georges, local traders are being encouraged to participate by organising special displays and exhibitions. French Weeks are also planned at local stores. This year's carnival is to have a European flavour with special awards for the best float with this theme and awards for the most appropriately decorated town store.

Question 7: Europe Day (5 May)Reply

Europe Day is celebrated annually by flags, posters and advertisements. In 1983 local schoolchildren will be encouraged to take part in special events to mark the occasion.

The acquisition of a European Flag of Honour would obviously allow us to make more of 5 May.

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## Question 8: Support to European movements

Reply

We support the national bodies referred to in 1, but they have no local committees. Because of this Eastleigh established its own Eastleigh Twinning Association in 1962 and has consistently supported this strongly both with financial and staffing support.

In addition the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Activities Centre for the Disabled in the Borough (which the Borough Council has sponsored) welcomes parties of European disabled and in recent years visitors from Brittany have been accommodated residentially at the Centre and participated in activities there. Similarly, the Bonhomie Centre at Bursledon within Eastleigh is equipped to receive parties of physically handicapped people and has welcomed parties from Europe.

## Question 9: Propagation of the European idea

Reply

The European idea is propagated at schools and particularly at the Eastleigh Institute of Adult Education (which itself operates from eight centres in the Borough) by means of language courses, both vocational and conversational. The teaching of languages is encouraged in the Eastleigh schools - at least one language is taught in every secondary school and often two or three. Some primary schools have included French in the timetable. Barton Peveril Grammar School has been one of the foremost schools in the County for encouraging associations with foreign countries. When it finally became a 6th Form College in 1977, languages taught were English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Latin and Greek. The school had the use of two full-time French speaking assistants, one from Germany and one part-time from Spain. Pupils have been encouraged to have exchanges with foreign schoolchildren and had links with schools in France, Germany, Spain and Czechoslovakia, in addition to the Borough's links with Villeneuve-Saint-Georges and Kornwestheim. Every year at least two visits to a country in Europe takes place. The 6th Form College has history and geography excursions into Europe.

A special commemorative postal franking mark has been designed to bear the insignia "Twinned in Europe - Eastleigh and Villeneuve-Saint-Georges - 20 years". A further standard postal franking mark has also been produced for more regular use reading "Eastleigh - twinned in Europe with Kornwestheim and Villeneuve-Saint-Georges".

With the co-operation of our twin town of Kornwestheim we are producing car and window stickers promoting our European tripartite twinning links.

Town road signs at all major entrances to the town have been replaced by new ones incorporating the names of our twin towns in Europe.

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Question 10: Actions of European solidarity

Reply

The town of Eastleigh has a strong reputation for responding to international needs. Eastleigh was the centre of two or three campaigns for Polish refugees after the 1939-45 war and played a positive role in incorporating these refugees into the community. As a result there is now a sizeable Polish community in Eastleigh with an active Anglo-Polish Society. When more recently the problem of accommodating Vietnamese refugees arose the Council responded by allocating and furnishing municipal houses for a number of refugee families and the Eastleigh Council of Churches undertook an active welfare role.

Question 11: Presentation

Reply

It is fervently hoped to link any such ceremony with our 20th anniversary of twinning with France. The award of the Flag in the same year as the anniversary we feel would provide a boost for the "European feeling" in the town. Representatives from Kornwestheim will, of course, be present.

We have written to the French Embassy telling them of our 20th anniversary celebrations and inviting a visit by the Ambassador. Our Member of the European Parliament, Mr Basil de Ferranti, is also being invited to attend.

Question 12: Other initiatives

Reply

Civic representatives pay annual visits in November to the respective twin towns for Armistice and Remembrance Day services. Contingents of the British Legion and Red Cross take part in these visits which seek to serve the cause of European unity and peace. These are reciprocated by French and West German civic heads and contingents of war veterans and Red Cross who are welcomed by their opposite numbers in giving greater warmth and significance to the remembrance.

In the past the town has taken part in trade and art exhibitions in twin town venues and there are efforts to secure tripartite exchanges of disabled townspeople.

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