

10th May, 2016

To: An Cathaoirleach and Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

Members of the Municipal District of Kilkenny City decided unanimously to develop a twinning arrangement between Malbork, Poland and Kilkenny.

Malbork is situated some 60km south of Gdansk on the main rail line between Warsaw and the coast. It has a brick built UNESCO –listed castle, with a thriving tourism product and bears striking similarities to Kilkenny.

Over the past number of months a number of ideas forming the basis of a worthwhile arrangement have been considered by a Twinning committee, consisting of elected members, interested community members and Council Officials, with input from the Polish embassy.

On St. Patrick's Day 2016 we had a visit from Piotr Rakowski, of the Polish embassy who attended a recent meeting here in City Hall to discuss both the twinning with Malbork and the forthcoming launch of the Polska / Éire national festival which will take place in Kilkenny. The Malbork administration is also fully supportive, and has invited a delegation from Kilkenny to visit Malbork in June to finalise a twinning programme.

The proposed twinning with Malbork has the full support of the Polish Embassy, and our task is to develop a meaningful programme of community driven events, which subscribe to the ethos of the E.U. "Europe for Citizens Programme"

An invitation has been issued by the Mayor of Malbork for a deputation from Kilkenny to visit Malbork for their forthcoming celebrations of Polish / German history, and the approval of Council is required for the foreign travel costs associated with the visit. Accommodation and catering is being offered by the Malbork Council for up to five Kilkenny delegates. The visit will provide an opportunity to explore the possibilities and benefits of a twinning agreement which will require full the approval of Council before proceeding.

The travel costs for members will be provided from within existing Municipal District budgets, should Council approve of the visit. Arrangements for the delegation will be made if approval is granted.

Brian Tyrrell,

Senior Executive Officer.