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30th May 2017

FAO Mrs Shona Barton
Argyll & Bute Council

Dear Theresa,

The next visit of friends from our twin town of Thouars in France is now confirmed as the 12th to the 19th July and we are delighted that 57 visitors will be joining us in Helensburgh and maintaining our twinning link.

The Twinning Committee has arranged a varied and interesting programme of events to showcase Argyll and Bute to our visitors over the week and would ask members to consider supporting the cost of these events from the annual Twinning Budget. The cost of visits and transport is expensive given that we have a high number of visitors this time, for example to take our visitors on the Waverley from Helensburgh pier has meant an outlay of £1700 for tickets alone. All the funds raised by our group are only used to pay for the expenses of the visitors, all Helensburgh and Lomond families who host the visitors pay for their own expenses of any outing or event as well as providing accommodation and hospitality over the week.

We would ask members to specifically fund the cost of a special event this time, namely Bastille Day, Friday 14th July. Given the poignancy for the French of this special day in their annual celebrations following last year's terrorist attack we are holding a special church service followed by lunch and ceilidh in the evening. As always on this visit we also wish to hire the Victoria Hall for the farewell dinner and to visit Inveraray Highland Games on Tuesday 18th and the grant would be used to support transport to the event and admission for our visitors.

We are looking forward to the visit again this year and will ensure that there is time in the busy programme for shopping and eating in Helensburgh's new town centre, which has been completed since the last visit. Our committee would welcome the support of elected members in maintaining this twinning link and its associated costs.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Dennett
Secretary, Helensburgh and District Twinning Assoc.