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FAO Mrs Shona Barton
Argyll & Bute Council

Dear Shona,

Further to my email earlier, please accept this letter as a formal request for funding from the Twinning Association.

Given the very volatile pandemic situation in the winter, unfortunately the French committee decided to cancel their visit to Helensburgh for 2022. This means that when the group do come in 2024, we will want to really make up for their missed trip and with very limited opportunities to fundraise through the pandemic we are very keen to secure this funding again for this year. When they come, the plan is very much to keep as much of the activities for the economic benefit of our surrounding area, giving a much-needed boost to local businesses. We are planning for a group from Helensburgh travel to Thouars in 2023 as this will be the 40th Anniversary and we are looking forward to taking new families and individuals to benefit from the cultural opportunities that twinning brings. We would plan to use the funding to subsidise travel from the airport for the children when we travel to France. We also plan to pay for a catered meal when we go to France as we have skipped a year of hosting and feel it appropriate to contribute to the 40th anniversary celebrations. When our French guests do finally come to Helensburgh we plan to use the funds towards travel and tickets for excursions. For 50 guests, for example, entry to the Hillhouse could cost upwards of £12 per person, so £600. This would also obviously only cover one day of a 7 day packed itinerary.

Our committee would welcome the support of elected members in maintaining this twinning link and its associated costs. And we thank the elected members for their continual support over the years. It is very much appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Dennett
Secretary, Helensburgh and District Twinning Assoc.