



# City of Bandon

555 Hwy 101, PO Box 67  
Bandon, OR 97411  
(541) 347-2437

*Bandon by the Sea*

## AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Torrey N. Contreras, City Manager 

DATE: February 5, 2024

SUBJECT: **ITEM 4.1 REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR THE CITY OF BANDON TO ESTABLISH A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BANDON-KINSALE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, COUNTY CORK, IRELAND**

### BACKGROUND

The City of Bandon ("City"), Oregon was incorporated in 1891 and was named Bandon after a founding immigrant's ancestral home of Bandon, County Cork, Ireland. Upon its incorporation, Bandon attracted Irish immigrants over the years, and the influence of that Irish heritage is a rich part of the City's history. In acknowledgment of the City's Irish heritage, a community member has inquired about the potential for the City to establish a sister city relationship with our counterparts in Ireland (see Attachments).

While City staff has not had any official contact with our counterparts in Bandon, Ireland, staff has completed a preliminary review of what a sister city relationship would entail. In most cases, a sister city relationship is mutually beneficial and aims to establish an association between two cities. The relationship can promote the development of new business and economic development opportunities by facilitating investment, tourism, and commerce between the two localities.

A key point to consider is that the town of Bandon, Ireland, does not have its own town council; instead, its interests are represented by the Bandon-Kinsale Municipal District ("District"). Therefore, any sister city relationship would be established between the City and District.

In presenting this matter to the City Council, staff is seeking direction on whether the City should pursue a sister city relationship with Bandon, Ireland. If the City Council is interested in considering this request, City staff will work in conjunction with the subject community member to contact District officials and explore the potential for establishing a sister city relationship. If District officials are interested in proceeding, representatives from the two agencies will work together to finalize the details of the relationship. Upon reaching a consensus, City staff will prepare the required staff report, resolution, and agreement for consideration by the City Council and subsequent referral to District officials for approval.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

If the City Council decides to establish a sister city relationship with Bandon, Ireland, the City will incur discretionary expenses for staff time and materials. Approximately 40 hours of executive staff time will be necessary to finalize details of the sister city relationship, including negotiating with District officials and preparing the documents required to form a sister city relationship between the two agencies. Additional costs to the City may include hosting delegations from the sister city and the potential need for City dignitaries to travel to Bandon, Ireland for ceremonial purposes.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The following is recommended to the City Council for consideration:

1. Review and discuss the information provided regarding the possible formation of a sister city relationship with the Bandon-Kinsale Municipal District, Ireland, and;
2. Direct City staff accordingly as it relates to the City Council's preference in pursuing a sister city relationship with the Bandon-Kinsale Municipal District, Ireland.

Attachments

Sample Twinning Agreement  
Letters of Support

## **Twinning Agreement**

**between**

**Bandon-Kinsale Municipal District, Ireland**

**and**

**The City of Bandon, Coos County, Oregon, United States of America**

WHEREAS, the City of Bandon, Coos County, Oregon, United States of America, was formally incorporated in 1891 and named *Bandon* after a founding immigrant's ancestral home of Bandon, County Cork, Ireland;

WHEREAS, this new Bandon of Oregon attracted a number of Irish immigrants over the years, and its history, culture, and civic attainments may be evaluated as part of the history of the larger Irish diaspora;

WHEREAS, the greater Bandon areas of Ireland and the United States are prompted by the wish to extend and strengthen the existing ties of heritage, commerce, and friendship between them, and both areas have developed a strong and growing local economy which can be the object of mutually beneficial exchanges for the citizens and businesses of both areas; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bandon, Ireland does not have an independent City Council, and so the interests of the Town of Bandon, Ireland are represented by the larger Bandon-Kinsale Municipal District;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Bandon-Kinsale Municipal District, Ireland and the City Council of the City of Bandon, Coos County, Oregon, United States of America (hereinafter, the "Parties"), recognizing that their respective greater Bandon areas have developed a strong and growing local economy which can be the object of mutually beneficial exchanges for the citizens and businesses of both areas, and prompted by the wish to extend and strengthen the existing ties of heritage, commerce, and friendship between the two areas, hereby agree to the following Twinning Agreement:

### **Article 1**

With the mutual prosperity and well-being of their respective citizenry as shared objectives, the Parties will explore opportunities to cultivate a greater understanding of each other, raise cross-cultural awareness, and generally advance the friendship between the two greater Bandon areas.

### **Article 2**

Recognizing the importance of strong and diverse economies, the Parties will endeavour to develop a climate which fosters interaction among entrepreneurs and business enterprises, promotes investment, and expands tourism, commerce, and fair trade.

### **Article 3**

In initiating ongoing cooperative efforts, each Party will seek to identify areas for collaboration and, in all spheres of mutual interest, work for the benefit of the peoples of the two greater Bandon areas. Methods to carry out this co-operation may include: exchanges of information and professional internships; organisation of seminars, symposia, meetings, conferences, etc.; trade missions; participation in each other's festivals and cultural events; export, import and investment promotion;

and trade show assistance and partnerships. The Parties may agree on other forms of collaboration than these referred to in this Article.

**Article 4**

Whereas, the partnership will provide a deeper understanding of each other's lives and traditions, while finding common elements that link the two greater Bandon areas, the Parties are ready for growth in many areas and can mutually work to achieve our goals together. For instance, we note the importance of the cultural activities and marine and coastal based activities to the respective local economies. We would like to explore the opportunity to share knowledge and skills which will assist in further supporting and enhancing such unique opportunities in both Bandon areas.

**Article 5**

The Parties will establish a bilateral working committee to implement this agreement by developing annual and long-term cooperation programs; proposing specific ways and means of collaboration; and monitoring and assessing common activities. This committee will report to each of the Parties' representatives who will meet at least once a year wherever possible and appropriate.

**Article 6**

Both Parties recognise the strong verifiable historical links between both greater Bandon areas. We pledge to learn more about these cultural ties and to share this information with any interested parties.

**Article 7**

We will foster links between our two greater Bandon areas and work towards encouraging and empowering the youth of both areas through sharing knowledge and skills; identification of best practices; collaboration on activities to add value and effectiveness; broadening of horizons; relationship building and networking.

This Twinning Agreement will come into effect at the date of signing and will have a five-year validity, renewable automatically for the same period of time, unless otherwise notified by one of the Parties. Should the latter occur, the Parties will terminate current and scheduled cooperation upon the date of such notification.

This Twinning Agreement is signed as duplicate originals, and each of the Parties shall keep one original instrument.

**The Bandon-Kinsale Municipal District, Ireland, by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Seán O'Donovan, Councillor and Chair,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

**The City of Bandon, Coos County, Oregon, United States of America, by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mary Schamehorn, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Madeline Seymour, Council Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

**Attest by the Cork County Council, Ireland, by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Valerie O'Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed



Chairperson Bandon Kinsale Municipal District

Cllr Sean O'Donovan

South Main St

Bandon

Co Cork

November 5, 2023

Dear Councillor,

**Re: Twinning of Bandon Co Cork with Bandon, Oregon.**

We write regarding the proposed twinning initiative as discussed at our recent Bandon Connects meeting.

We would like to confirm our support for the initiative, which we feel is a positive opportunity to enhance the identity and heritage of both towns. Creative Bandon would be happy to explore and collaborate in joint cultural activities, and those that promote excellence in the arts.

We look forward to exploring the possibilities, and welcome those that would be of benefit to our wider communities.

Kind Regards

Ivan McCutcheon

Chairperson



# **Bandon Athletics Club**



To whom it concerns,

Bandon Athletic Club, as one of the largest athletics clubs in Ireland, is delighted to hear about plans to twin Bandon, County Cork with Bandon, Oregon.

Personally, as a Bandon native, I am well aware of the historic connections between these two great towns, which as well as sharing a name, share a great love of sport.

Bandon Athletics Club would welcome the opportunity to showcase, not only the great town of Bandon, Ireland at some stage in the near future, but also the abundance of athletic talent, with an athletics meet, featuring athletes from the two Bandon's, in the soon to be developed all-weather track in Bandon, Ireland.

What a sight it would be to see athletes from Bandon High School in Oregon lining up against athletes from the local schools. An opportunity to build relationships and closer ties like this, should not be missed.

Bandon Athletics Club hopes that this process can be concluded successfully and if we can assist in any way, we would be delighted to play our part.

Kind regards,

Adrian O'Flynn,  
Chairman, Bandon Athletic Club, Ireland.

Twining Bandon,

To whom it may concern,

Artists of the Bandon area greatly support the twinning of Bandon Oregon and Bandon Ireland.

We have already established links with Bandon Oregon and had an exhibition "Bridging Bandon" in our local gallery "The Grey Heron" to celebrate and bring awareness to efforts made to the twinning process. It has been an interesting journey learning a variety of cultural differences and discovering an overwhelming amount of similarities.

From the perspective of the arts, we have been discovering different artists and art communities. We have seen various ways of how to get an arts community established in our own town.

By establishing a cultural bridge across the Atlantic, artists in both Bandon communities can benefit from exposure to new art forms, techniques, and cultural influences, leading to a more enriched and diverse local art scene. This exchange will help promote creativity, innovation, and a deeper appreciation for the arts in both towns.

Additionally, cultural twinning can have a positive economic impact, as it can attract tourism and stimulate local businesses that cater to the arts and culture sector. The art communities in both Bandon, Co. Cork, and Bandon, Oregon, will see increased opportunities for artistic development, networking, and promotion, contributing to the growth of the local creative economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am eager to see the positive outcomes that this twinning initiative can bring to the world of the arts.

Sincerely

Deirdre Pattwell,

Adam De Marco,


Katherine Griffiths,

Jonathan Tyner,

Maire Mc Inerney.

**From:** Sean O Donovan [odonovaneire@gmail.com](mailto:odonovaneire@gmail.com)   
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**Date:** November 2, 2023 at 2:16 AM  
**To:** Brian Dunne [Brian.Dunne@CorkCoCo.ie](mailto:Brian.Dunne@CorkCoCo.ie)



 External email >

**CAUTION FROM CORK COUNTY COUNCIL IT SECURITY:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** deirdre pattwell <[pattwelldeirdre235@gmail.com](mailto:pattwelldeirdre235@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thu 2 Nov 2023, 09:13  
**Subject:**  
**To:** [odonovaneire@gmail.com](mailto:odonovaneire@gmail.com) <[odonovaneire@gmail.com](mailto:odonovaneire@gmail.com)>



Tue, Oct 31, 5:44 PM (2 days ago)

**Pat Canniffe** <[patcanniffe1@gmail.com](mailto:patcanniffe1@gmail.com)>  
to me

Cumann Seanchais Na Banndon  
Bandon Local History Association

Bandon Local History Society wishes to support the twinning of Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland and Bandon, Oregon.  
Over the years Bandon Historical Society has been in contact with Bandon Oregon. The last contact was with Rick W. Toth.  
In the Bandon Historical Journals articles have been written. The late Paddy Connolly wrote on the life of George Bennett. His brother Lawrence visited Bandon Oregon in 2008 and wrote on the Bandon Journal 2009.  
This year marks the publication of Bandon Journal No. 40.  
The benefits of the twinning would be a great link in making friends and sharing our history and culture.  
Members of Bandon Historical Society look forward to the Twinning.  
We wish the Twinning Committee every success in your plans for linking the two towns.  
Kind Regards  
Pat Canniffe, chairperson of Bandon Historical Society.







**Weir St, Bandon, Co Cork**

Chairman of Bandon Kinsale Municipal District  
Cllr Sean O'Donovan  
South Main St  
Bandon  
Co Cork

26 October, 2023

Dear Sean,

**Re: Twinning with Bandon, Oregon**

I am writing about the twinning proposal, as discussed at our recent Bandon Connects meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Bandon Country Market would be delighted to support the initiative.

Bandon has been a market town since 1610, and I know that Bandon, Oregon has a fantastic market and great produce – so this project has a natural fit. We still have three weekly markets in the town and are always seeking to promote the advantages of local provenance. I am sure we both face some of the same opportunities and challenges, and the twinning could be a vehicle to show the uniqueness of both locations.

Please let me know if you require any further information.  
Kind Regards

*Marguerite McQuaid*

Marguerite McQuaid  
PRO



Town Park,  
Bandon,  
Co. Cork.

[richard.oregan2020@gmail.com](mailto:richard.oregan2020@gmail.com)

October 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my wholehearted support for the proposed twinning of Bandon, Co. Cork and Bandon, Oregon.

This endeavour holds immense potential for both communities, and it resonates with the deep-rooted historical connections that bind these two towns. I firmly believe that such a partnership will yield substantial benefits, particularly within the realm of tourism.

In my capacity as the Chairperson of a local sports club, I am excited about the prospects that this twinning could bring to our sporting organizations. It presents an exciting opportunity to foster relationships between various sports clubs in both towns. Moreover, this collaboration could open doors for reciprocal tours and exchanges between sports clubs from our regions. I can confidently say that Bandon Soccer Club is ready to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to any sports club hailing from Bandon, Oregon.

I eagerly await updates on the progress of this twinning initiative and the positive impact it will undoubtedly have on our towns.

Yours in Sport,

Richard O'Regan  
Chairperson  
Bandon Soccer Club  
0035386-1545259