

Sahyog

c/o Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminaryan Temple, Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow Middlesex HA3 9EA
Telephone 0208 909 9899. Fax 0208 909 9897

Ms Joyce Markham
The Chief Executive
London Borough of Harrow
Civic Centre
Harrow
Middlesex HA1

29th December 2003

Dear Ms Markham

TWINNING WITH BHUJ

We the undersigned hereby request Harrow Council to consider twinning of the London Borough of Harrow with Bhuj in Gujarat State of India.

Harrow has 41,000 of its residents of Indian origin who form the highest minority ethnic group in the Borough. A significant number of this group is from a town called Bhuj (and surrounding) areas in the Gujarat State of India.

There are already some very strong and significant links between communities / families, organizations and businesses in Harrow and Bhuj. For example The Swaminarayan Temple (SKSS) located in Westfield Lane, Kenton and the newly established Swaminarayan Temple in Edgware have their parent body The Swaminarayan Temple in Bhuj. There have been long established working links since at least the last ten years between these organizations. Similarly there are a considerable level of cultural & social activities through a large number of families living in Harrow who have their relations in Bhuj and even have second homes in Bhuj. Many Indian businesses have economic ties. We are compiling detailed statistics, which would be submitted to the Council in Mid January 2004 to substantiate our case.

To promote the concept of Twinning and for its successful implementation we have formed a new Organisation whose current executive is derived from the leading members of well established Organisations in Harrow. We are currently working on our constitution, which would be forwarded to the Council in due course. We have had detailed discussions on the twinning concept with Councillors Navin Shah and Sanjay Dighe and we would of course work in Partnership with the Council for the Twinning arrangements.

We understand that Harrow Council would be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2004. We believe that a formal link from a properly constituted Twinning would further benefits for the mutual interest of Harrow and Bhuj. Twinning with Bhuj would be a celebration and recognition of Harrow's multicultural makeup. We would appreciate an opportunity to discuss the Twinning arrangements with you. We hope that the Council would give due considerations to our proposal.

Yours sincerely,

V. Vishram V Patel
(Secretary)

Vishram V Patel
For and on behalf of :

Mr Vishram V Patel President, SKSS Temple, Kenton
Mr Devraj Patel, Swaminarayan Temple Edgware
Ms Ranu Mehta-Radia Sai School, Harrow
Mr Ajay Aggarwal Indian Association of Harrow

Copy: Cllr Archie Foulds, Leader of the Council BH.