

- (c) Council considered the following motion by Councillor Murtagh, seconded by Councillor Coombes, that:-

Council notes the success of many recent cultural events celebrating Falkirk's links with both our past; in big Roman week, and our international Friendships; such as through the summer Twinning excursions to Odenwald, involving many of our talented young people.

While we are proud in Falkirk to celebrate many aspects of our cultural heritage, including our Roman sites, such as the Antonine Wall; Council believes that such structures belong in the past and modern societies should be striving to break down physical and cultural barriers that hinder peace.

The Antonine Friendship Link, so named to mirror this principle, has been working since 2004 to highlight the suffering of the Palestinian people around the community of Jayyous, whose basic human rights are put under daily pressure through blockade and illegal occupation of land.

Council reaffirms the link between Falkirk District and Jayyous in Palestine and commends the work of the Antonine Friendship Link for their peaceful and inclusive approach to assisting the people of Jayyous and raising awareness of their circumstances.

Council notes the intention of the Antonine Friendship Link to renew their scroll, previously signed by many local politicians past and present and displayed at a number of prominent venues including the Scottish Parliament and Falkirk Municipal Buildings. Council resolves to offer what practicable assistance it can to the Antonine Friendship Link in helping them renew their scroll and invites current councillors to sign the finished work, should any individual councillor desire to do so.

Council commits to displaying the finished scroll within the Municipal Buildings at a mutually agreed point in the future and extends our warmest friendship to the people of Jayyous. In doing so, Council vehemently rejects all forms of religious bigotry and sectarianism, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and mutually with the Antonine Friendship Link, believes in the rights of all people to express themselves and practice their chosen religion, or none, in complete freedom and without fear or persecution.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.