



## BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

### NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
<b>ATTENDEES</b>			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthen's	Julie Holland	Viva
Tina Cooper	Blackpool Sixth	Joe Orban	Otech Systems
Wendy Swift, Matthew Burrow	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals	Rebecca Murdoch	Total Finance
Tim Fielding	BBE Law	Ruth Patton	Patton's Community
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose	Lucy Barnwell	Rossall School
Nicola Spencer	M&S Outlet, Freeport	Nichola Howard	Blackpool Expo
Jane Kelly	Sandcastle Waterpark	Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla
Vito Cinardi	Litigation Solutions	Sarah Rhodes	Rhodes Media
Nick Taylor, Tom Cobden	Hilton Blackpool	Kate Pedler	Questa Chartered
Phil McVan	Be Thinking	Vicki Ivanov	Candy House
Richard Lefton	The Lefton Group	Tom Willcox	Willcox PR
Allan Bowness	Ascent Trampoline Park	Jonathan Townsend	Lloyds Banking
Tom Metcalf	Little Touches	Steve Swallow	Portal Security
Sarah Mortimer	Camerados	Steve Burns	Think Forward CIC
Simon Brooke, Kristina Szigeti	Happy Creative	Graham Shaw	West Lancs Electrical Contractors
Colin Johnston	Grand Theatre	John Barnett	High Sheriff of Lancashire
Philip Owen	Barclays	Ron Bell	Colossal Group
Chris Hibbert	Henco	Pam Swain	British Association of Dental Nurses
Natalie Dubois	Revolution	John and Jaki Armstrong	Majestic North West
Rosey Rihani	RR Legal	Pauline Lai, Gareth Thomas	The Mandarin
Dawn Pepper	Genting Casino	Paul Hardy, Sophie Coane	Napthens
Peter Bennett	Assess Design Develop	Sunny Wang	Mayfaire Spa
Michael Williams	Winter Gardens	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Lee Petts	Remsol/Lancashire For Shale	Katherine O'Connor	Cities and Local Growth
Lisa Rooney, Karl Worsley	DWP	Peter Jefferson	Visionistic
Paul Wilcock	Montpelier Group	Mark Fitzgerald, Dave McGough	Sainsbury's
Frank Heald	Voiteq	Ian Mallam	Digitav
Lee Dumbrell	Sands Venue	Gary Smith	People Plus
Louise Logan	Career Ready	Jonathan Barnes	Santander
Tom Mercer	Handelsbanken	Dave Riche, Mykey Young	LightPool
Shaun Pickup	Dahlia's Kitchen	Eileen Ormand	Town Centre BID
Deborah Terras	UR Potential	Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co
Shirley Ross	Virgin Trains	Carole Houston, Barrie Thompson	China UK Business Centre
Elaine Smith	Blackpool Civic Trust	Clare Taylor	Duxbury Commercial
Andrew Hamilton	Chamber of Commerce	Tony Carr	Social Enterprise Solutions
Simon Booth	Astute Motoring	Yusuf Musa	Enterprise4All
Michael Pickthall	Pinpoint Management Consultants	Paul Friday, Andy Green	Future Focus Energy
Michelle Shea, Fiona Boyd	Natwest	Grace Bennett	Vista Online
Tim Freshney	WJF Technical Support	Belinda Shore	Santander
Nicola Atanassova, Mandy Tythe-McCallum	VisitBlackpool	Andrew Wareing, Andy Atkinson	Voucher Packs
Samantha Bell, Ashley Doherty	Skool Of Street	Norry Ascroft	Entertainer/Consultant
Kerian Barnes	Starboard Hotels	Joan Blackburn	Spire Hospital
John Salisbury	RBS	Jane Hugo	Streetlife
Chris Maine, Andrew Hall	DPA Packaging	Shirley Hunt	Cranstone Hotel
Darrell Treece-Birch	St Annes Town Council	Brian Morrison	BizSocial Networking
Andrew Fairbrother	Blackpool Providers	Terry Shields	Blackpool 4 Networking
Paul Mathison	Create Construction	Peter Rawlings	Tower Employment
Amanda Westgate	Big Impact Communications	Peter Lui	Luxsun Lighting/Chinese Community Association
Robin Ross	Creative Artists Network	Mike Hardaker	Moore & Smalley
Alison Gilmore	The Imperial Hotel	Jonathan Cooke, Alison Rowley, Lucy Middleton	Network Rail
David Galvin	Blackpool Housing Co		
<b>OBSERVERS/GUESTS</b>			
Philip Welsh	Blackpool Council		
<b>APOLOGIES</b>			
Jill Gray	Blackpool Sixth	Viv Cuthill	Coaching, Facilitation and Research
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs and Graphics	Jim Cross	Blackpool Carers
Susanne Johnson	Johnson's Emporium	Bev Robinson	Blackpool & The Fylde College
David Cam	Under-Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster	Jackie Skeer	SESS Surveying
John Child	Sandcastle	Mark Croasdale	Whitehead & Howarth
Tim Forshaw	Arthur J Gallagher	Graham Wood	Consultant
Robert Owen/Amanda Thompson	Pleasure Beach	Rachel Riches	Village Hotels
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council	Vicky Reynolds	Ashworth Treasure
Roger Mellor, Andrew Jackson	Glasdon	Julia Eastwood	Artisan Tiles
Fiona Reid	Ascroft Whiteside	Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services
Ashley Moore	Event Assembly	Rob Green	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC
Carmen Conquer, Helen Atkinson	Aspired Futures	Dale Lawrenson	Natwest
David Hoyle	Happy Days Childcare	Michael Cuddy	Chartered Surveyors
Kerry Gilmore	GP Strategies	Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design/Wyred Up
Darren Webster	Blackpool Zoo	David Houston	Trinity Hospice
Steve Whitehouse	FTS	Sybaris Linderman	The Berkeley
Erica Crompton	Big Foot Events	Rachel Younger	Primary Futures
Phil Bonell	Training Works	Kate Shane	Merlin Entertainments
Wendy Harrison	Café Fresch		

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Martin Long (chair, Napthen's) welcomed members. He thanked Alison Gilmore and the staff of The Imperial for hosting the event.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising**

The notes of the last meeting were acknowledged

**3. Lancashire For Shale**

Lee Petts gave a presentation on behalf of the Lancashire For Shale group. He said the group was an evolution of the original North West Energy Task Force, was very Lancashire-focused and "unashamedly" supporting the case for shale gas.

He said that decisions on the Cuadrilla planning appeals were due any day and part of the group's remit was to support the supply chain portal established by the Chamber of Commerce and help local businesses get ready for shale gas.

He said the group was involved in a number of key activities including:

- ✳ Showcasing the opportunities linked to shale gas
- ✳ Connecting potential supply partners with each other and Cuadrilla
- ✳ Preparing local businesses to understand industry needs and demands
- ✳ Helping with skills

Mr Petts said the group was funded by Cuadrilla, Centrica and local businesses.

He said that members of the BBLG could show their support by helping to provide funding, registering as potential suppliers at [www.shalegaslancashire.co.uk](http://www.shalegaslancashire.co.uk) and showing support publicly.

Following the presentation, Mr Petts answered a series of questions about shale gas.

A copy of the presentation can be viewed at: [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) under Reports/Presentations

**4. China Dance Festival**

Michael Williams (Winter Gardens) gave a presentation on the recent Blackpool Dance Festival that was staged in China.

He said the event had been a huge success, attracting 4,000 competitors from 25 different countries and 15,000 spectators.

He added that the China event complemented the main dance championships held in Blackpool and also promoted awareness of Blackpool and its dance events. Parts of the arena had been "dressed" to give it the same look and feel as the Empress Ballroom.

He said that ballroom dancing was experiencing phenomenal growth in China with around 50 million registered dancers.

The 2017 festival in China will be held from August 17-22.

**5. Sanya Twinning**

Peter Lui (Luxsun Lighting) gave a presentation on the town twinning agreement between Blackpool and Sanya in China.

He gave a short summary of the steps that had been taken over the past three years in order to secure the agreement.

Mr Lui said that the agreement would focus on a number of areas of joint co-operation including tourism, education, trade and economic development, knowledge exchange, culture and sport.

A copy of the presentation can be viewed at [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) under Reports/Presentations

## 6. **Pride Festival**

Eileen Ormand (Town Centre BID) and Shaun Pickup (Dahlia's Kitchen) gave an update on the plans for the 2017 Pride Festival.

It was noted that the festival had grown significantly over the past few years with almost 12,000 attendees in 2016, but there was still enormous potential to develop the event on the scale of those that took place in large cities.

Ms Ormand and Mr Pickup highlighted various events that would take place in the run up to the festival in June next year and also illustrated how local businesses could get involved in the event. The 2017 programme has been increased from two days to three in order to generate more overnight stays in resort.

A copy of the presentation can be viewed at [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) under Reports/Presentations

## 7. **Blackpool to Preston Electrification**

Jonathan Cooke and Alison Rowley (Network Rail) gave an update on the electrification of the Blackpool to Preston rail line and set out an initial timetable for service changes/disruption linked to this work.

It was noted that the first changes, affecting early morning and late night services to and from Blackpool North, would commence on Monday 3 October.

There will be disruption to services in varying degrees between now and the completion of the electrification programme in May 2018, with further service changes to be introduced at the start of 2017. Another update will be provided by Network Rail prior to those changes being made.

A question was asked over the integration of the tramway extension and also the condition of Blackpool North station. Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) reported that the tramway extension was being designed to ensure full integration as a train and tramway hub. Although no budget had been allocated to Network Rail for improvements to the actual station, further lobbying was taking place.

A copy of the Network Rail presentation can be viewed at [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) under Reports/Presentations. Updates on the Blackpool electrification programme and service changes can be viewed at [www.networkrail.co.uk/blackpool](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/blackpool)

## 8. **Business Partnerships Report**

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting. He picked out a number of items for special mention:

### Miss Peregrine

Philip Welsh reported that Tim Burton's Miss Peregrine film had opened at the Blackpool Odeon on the previous night. He said the latter part of the film was based entirely in Blackpool with a number of locations heavily featured including The Tower, Promenade, North Pier and Tower Circus.

He said that a number of local organisations featured in the credits including The Tower, Blackpool Council and Rhodes Media.

### Blackpool Pleasure Beach Investment

Philip Welsh reported that an announcement had been made on the previous day, revealing that the Pleasure Beach was investing £16m in a new rollercoaster, which would be opened in May 2018.

He said the investment was a huge statement of faith in Blackpool by the owners of the Pleasure Beach and would bring substantial benefit to the resort as a whole when it opened.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### LightPool Festival

Mykey Young (LightPool) gave a presentation on the LightPool Festival, a new event planned for the October half-term. He said this festival would include a series of light-based art installations around the town centre as well as spectacular live performances.

It will be staged between October 28 and November 2. A copy of Mykey's presentation can be viewed on [www.bblq.co.uk](http://www.bblq.co.uk) under Reports/Presentations. Festival programme details and updates can also be found at [www.visitblackpool.com/lightpool](http://www.visitblackpool.com/lightpool)

### Switch-Off Ball

Shirley Hunt (Cranstone Hotel and Illuminations Ambassador) said that a special celebration was being held to mark the end of the 2016 Illuminations season. She said this would be staged at Grosvenor Casino on the evening of Sunday 6 November. Businesses are encouraged to support the event, the proceeds of which will go to the Illuminations fund. Anyone wishing to attend, please email: [Shirley.hunt1@btopenworld.com](mailto:Shirley.hunt1@btopenworld.com)

## **10. Date and time of next meeting**

Next meeting scheduled for 7.30am for 8.30am on Friday 25 November at The Grand Theatre, Church Street, Blackpool. Further details including parking arrangements will follow.