



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JULY 27, 2018, AT THE WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthen's	Frank Heald	Voiteq
Kerry Higginson	GP Strategies	Krisztina Szigeti	Happy Creative
Ray Eyre, Simon Shearer	Parkinsons	Debbs Lancelott	Houndhill Shopping Centre
Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Effie Sharp	Randstad
Connor Greer	Complete Computing Company	Alistair Baines, Laurence McBurney	Cassidy & Ashton
David Cam	Under Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster	Debbi Hodson	Blackpool Sixth
Ron Bell, Kerry Bell	Abbey Bell	Mark Ferris, John Scott	F&S Contract Supplies
Chris Curtis	Swallows	Ian White	Chorlton Hotel
Greg Goodall, Richard Burnett	AWOL TV	Gary Edwards	Lateo Global Solutions
Michael Williams	Winter Gardens	James Evans	HLS Supplies
Andy Mellor	Primary Futures	Daniel O'Connor, Conner Romain	World 360
Susanne Johnson	Johnson's Emporium	Janet Atkins	Trinity Hospice
Laura Jayne Hodgson	Titan	Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services
Alex Rinsler, Phil Holmes	Lightpool Festival	Colin Johnston	Blackpool Grand Theatre
Mike Lovell	Chameleon Financial Planning	Stephanie Evans	VisitBlackpool
Samantha Bell, Aishley Doherty	Skool of Street	Paul Isherwood	Stressbuster Works
Nick and Mary Speakman	Code Galaxy	Pam Isherwood	Renaissance
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design	Chris Hibbert	Henco
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics	Helen Atkinson, Sue Williams	Aspired Futures
Mark Nelson	UCLAN	Graham Shaw	West Lancashire Electrical
Colin Taylor	Lights Ambassador	Rob Morland	Barclays
Kila Redfearn	Blue Skies	Fay McLean	The Full Property Experience
Sham Sangha	Silicon Talent Consulting	Linda Palentine	UCLAN
Chris Calvert	Rushtons	David Worsfold	HIVE
Nigel Kilgallon	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Carole Houston	Horizon
Andrea Wallace	Wyre Council	Adam Howard	Blackpool Time To Change
Rebecca Murdoch	Brambles & Co	Mark Yates	Brooks Collectables
Pam Swain	British Association of Dental Nurses	Matt Watts	Lancs Cheesecake Co
Tracey Clarke	Toyland	Barrie Thompson, Dee Lo	China UK Business Centre
Damian Broughton, Chris Oxley	Danbro	Laura Weldon	Studio LWD
David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure	Matt Gibbs	Marketing
Mark Croasdale	Whitehead & Howarth	Melanie Whitehead	Electric Sunshine Project
John Salisbury	RBS	Janet Doolan, Mandie Mansfield-Clark	Growth Lancashire
Michelle Smith	Blackpool Carers	James Gilbert, Shru Morris	Napthens
Nichola Howard	Launch Events North West	Phil Parramore	Empathy At Home
Jane Cole	Blackpool Transport Services	Sean Peters	Haboth Lettings
Claire Jameson	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Toby Simpson	Coffeebrook
Maria Smale	McDonald's	Andy Green	Future Focus Energy
Steve Singleton, David Stevenson	Cuadrilla	Phil McVan	iEnergy Insights
Andrew Woolley	Chamber of Commerce	Marie Bywater	Greggs
Simon Smith, Jon Halliday	Natwest	Ian Mallam	Digitav
Vicki Ivanov, Shelli Cingalee	Candy House	Nicola Stott	Viva
Graham Wood	AFC Fylde	Hayley Roberts	Marks & Spencer
Jake Adams	Mina Group	Carley Harrison	Skipton Building Society
Norry Ascroft	Entertainer/consultant	Alex Cosgrave	The Belgian Life
Elaine Smith	Friends of Stanley Park	John and Jaki Armstrong	Majestic N-W
Tom Mercer	Handelsbanken	Richard Baguley	GDR PR
Steven Burns	Think Forward	Mick Grewcock	Burbage Holiday Group
Geoff Mason, Chris Aiken	Chamber of Commerce	Mandy Tythe-McCallum	VisitBlackpool
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Philip Welsh, Peter Legg,	Blackpool Council	Nick Gerrard	Blackpool Council
David Slater, Carolyn Primett	Blackpool Council		
APOLOGIES			
Bev Robinson	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Nicola Spencer	M&S Outlet
Rob Green, Nicole Billington	Airport Enterprise Zone	Sue Howorth	Family Business Network
Chris Maine	DPA Paper Agents	Emily Hawkins	UCLAN
Nicola Atanassova	VisitBlackpool	Ruth Eastwood	Grand Theatre
Philip Owen	Consultant	Tony Carr	Social Enterprise Solutions
Helen Livesey	The Business Clinic	Wendy Swift	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals
Fiona Reid	Butterworth's Solicitors	Jonathan Barnes	Santander
Richard Lefton	Lefton Furniture Group	Emma Beardsworth	VIP Chauffeur Car Hire
Roger Mellor	Glasdon	Steve Godfrey	Fujitsu UK
Lindsay Campbell	Campbell & Rowley	Viv Cuthill	Coaching, Facilitation & research
Heather Morrow	Museum Project	Mike Pickthall	Pinpoint Management Consultants
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council	Anne Catterson	Common Purpose
Shirley Williams, Dan Scott	PHX Training	John Barnett	The Wave

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Long (chair) welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

Minutes noted, no matters arising.

3. Welcome To The Winter Gardens

Michael Williams, Managing Director of the Winter Gardens, welcomed the group to the venue and gave a brief summary of the key developments that had taken place in recent years including details of the new conference and exhibition centre that is under construction and due to open in August 2019. He then showed a short video which showcased the many events, shows, exhibitions and community initiatives undertaken by the Winter Gardens.

4. Cyber Security

Laura Jayne Hodgson (Titan, part of the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit) gave a presentation on the national police initiatives that are underway to protect against cyber-crime in the UK.

Her presentation covered various aspects including:

- ❖ Cyber Dependant Crime such as hackings, phishing and ransomware
- ❖ Cyber Enabled Crime such as online bullying, trafficking and theft

She advised on how they could protect themselves and their businesses against cyber-crime. This included advice on use of strong passwords; caution over unsecured public wi-fi networks; and the need to carry out software updates when prompted.

Laura said there was a great deal of free guidance available online including a Small Business Guide. Go to: www.ncsc.gov.uk/cisp

Laura's presentation and contact details can be viewed on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

5. Enterprise Zone Masterplan

Nick Gerrard (Blackpool Council) gave an update on progress being made with the development of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone.

He reported that Blackpool Council had now signed off the delivery plan and committed almost £30m to fund the infrastructure that was required to facilitate business growth in the zone.

He said that preparation of the planning application for the first phase of the spine road off Common Edge Road was already underway. The Masterplan, Delivery Plan and Marketing Plan had all been presented to the LEP and signed off.

Next steps include the finalising of the business plan for Blackpool Airport.

Business enquiries were now coming in with more than 150 generated so far. Since April 2016, a total of 700 jobs have been either created or secured on the site.

Nick's presentation can be viewed on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

6. **South Beacons Update**

Susanne Johnson (Johnson's Emporium) gave an update on the activities of the South Beacons, a group aiming to regenerate the South Beach area of Blackpool.

She said that the group was exploring a number of initiatives to help change the image of the area including:

- ❖ Establishment of a Retail Academy
- ❖ A South Beach heritage project
- ❖ Family camping on the headlands around South Beach
- ❖ Artwork on the Waterloo Headland
- ❖ Open air cinema on the South Pier headland

Susanne said that in order to bring some of these projects to reality, they needed help across a number of areas including project management; office support; legal support; photography; social media; and entertainment.

Anyone willing to help support these initiatives, contact Susanne at:
susanne@mrsjohnsonsemporium.co.uk

7. **World Head & Neck Cancer Day**

Chris Curtis (Cancer survivor, World Cancer Survivor Advocate and chair of the Swallows Head and Neck Cancer Support Group) gave a presentation on the work being done by this worldwide organisation.

He said that World Head and Neck Cancer Day was being held that day and would be celebrated in Blackpool with Blackpool Tower being lit burgundy and the staging of an event at The Village Hotel later that afternoon.

He showed the group a short film, demonstrating the impact of the cancer but also showcasing those who have survived it.

For further information, contact Chris by email at: chris@theswallows.org.uk or go to the website, www.theswallows.org.uk

8. **Primary Futures Update**

Andy Mellor (Education & Employers) gave an update on the Primary Futures programme which is aimed at inspiring children in Blackpool's primary schools.

He said that the organisation had secured £20k to stage an event in every primary school in the resort – a total of 26 schools over a two-year period.

To do that, an additional 260 volunteers would be needed from within the business community to support the schools over that period. He said that the only commitment that was required was to give up a morning once a year to talk to the children.

Andy pointed out that when he first made a presentation to the BBLG, Primary Futures had a total of 60 volunteers. He said there were now more than 800 – and that illustrated the power of the BBLG.

Any business willing to come forward to support the project is urged to do so.

Andy's presentation and contact details can be viewed on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

9. **Lightpool Festival 2018**

Alex Rinsler (creative director of Lightpool Festival) gave a presentation on the plans for the 2018 festival in October half-term.

He said that this would comprise a number of elements including:

- ❖ Light Odyssey, a spectacular light and music collaboration with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra to be staged in the Empress Ballroom on October 18
- ❖ A light-based art trail throughout the town centre for the three main days of the festival, October 25-27
- ❖ Carnival of the Lights and Illuminated Tram Parade on October 25
- ❖ Large-scale outdoor production, Rush, to be staged in association with LeftCoast on part of Central Car Park on October 26
- ❖ Fire-related live performance on October 27
- ❖ Glow football tournament involving all of the resort's primary schools during September and October
- ❖ Staging of three conferences for Light Up The North, Nesta, and ISAN

Alex said that project partners and sponsors were still sought from within the business community, with packages starting from £500.

Any businesses willing to support the event contact Alex at alexrinsler@gmail.com or Phil Holmes, phil@dragoncreative.co.uk

Alex's presentation can be viewed on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

10. **Business Partnerships Report**

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) drew the group's attention to a number of items:

Illuminations Switch-On: He reported that the ballot for free wristbands had now closed, with a total of 131,000 applications. VIP packages now available on the www.visitblackpool.com website.

The Hive: He drew the group's attention to an exclusive discount offer for BBLG members at the new Hive artisan coffee shop on Church Street. The offer allows a 10% discount throughout August.

Trinity Hospice Ball: He also drew the group's attention to the Trinity Hospice Annual Fundraising Ball, which is being staged at the Tower Ballroom on Saturday 22 September. To book tickets, email: linzi.warburton@trinityhospice.co.uk

Conference Guide: Copies of the new Blackpool Conference Guide were given out to attendees at the meeting. PW said that the guide showcased the new conference and exhibition centre and illustrated the level of ambition to bring conference business back to Blackpool.

11. Any Other Business

Blackpool Expo

Nichola Howard (Launch Events North West) alerted the group to the next Blackpool Expo event, which is being staged on Wednesday 26 September at The Village Hotel.

Vote of Thanks

The chair thanked The Winter Gardens team for hosting the event and the various speakers for their presentations.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30am for 8.30am on Friday 28 September, 2018, at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.