



## BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

### NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 27, 2015, AT THE HILTON HOTEL, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
<b>ATTENDEES</b>			
Martin Long (chair), Malcolm Ireland	Napthens	Philip Owen	Barclays
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design/Wyred Up	David Galvin	Blackpool Housing Company
Daryl Platt	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Helen Atkinson, Lorna Lightfoot	Aspired Futures
Michael Trainor, Duncan Hodgson	LeftCoast	Charlotte Gili-Ross	Ribby Village
Jonathan Barnes	Santander	Simon Brooke, John Filmer	Happy Creative
Rob Green, Mark Gillingham	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC	Chris Maine, Andrew Hall	DPA Packaging
John and Jaki Armstrong	Majestic	Claire Smith	Number One Hotels
Sean Gibbs, David Edwards	Harrison Drury	Grace Bennett	Vista Employer Services
Stuart Livesey	Consultant	Philip Helm	Tyson Construction
Nicola Atanassova, Mandy Tythe-McCallum	VisitBlackpool	Viv Cuthill	Tourism Coaching
Wendy Swift	Blackpool NHS Teaching Hospitals		
Jon Magee, Amanda Elliott	Fleetwood Freeport	Paul Linderman	Berkeley Apartments
David Riche	LightPool Business Development	Jane Cole	Blackpool Transport Services
David Jones	Thirty30Media	Justin Allitt	Allitt Estate Agency
Denise Carmel	Care Scene	Phil Bonell	Training Works
Paul Farquhar	Now2	Martin Stewart Furne	Job Centre Plus
Lesley Heatley	Inenco	Neil Foulkes	HSBC
Harry Dunning	Virgin Trains	Pam Swain	British Association of Dental Nursing
Colin Johnston	Blackpool Grand Theatre	Shirley Hunt	Cranstone Hotel
Andrew Wareing, Andy Atkinson	Voucher Packs	Sanjeev Maharaj, Adam Ray	Smart Point Advertising
James Stewart	Village Hotels	Damian Broughton	Danbro
Elaine Smith	Blackpool Civic Trust	Stuart Mulrooney	Johnston Press
John Barnett	Stardream/The Wave	James Evans, Chris Shaw	High Level Specialists
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose		
Alex McIntyre	Property Scene	Hugh Evans	Chamber of Commerce
Jim Firth	Genting Casino	Louise Logan	Career Ready
Andy Higgins	The Mailing Room	Vicky Reynolds	Ashworth Treasure
Peter Bennett	Assess Design	Tony Raynor	Abbey Telecom
Les Ball	Town Centre BID	Paul Wilcock	Montpelier Group
Ruth Patton	Patton's Community	Michael Williams, Kila Redfearn	Winter Gardens
Mike Hardaker	Moore & Smalley	Susanne Johnson	Johnson's Of Bond St/FSB
Sarah Mortimer	Fulfilling Lives	Pauline Lai	The Mandarin
Susanna Boccaccio	Brilliant Trees Media	Tim Forshaw	Arthur J Gallagher
Peter Jefferson	Visionistic	Andrew Jackson, Roger Mellor	Glasdon
Steve Hodgkins, Katie Upton	Jobs, Friends and Houses	Jon Rhodes	Rhodes Media
Robert Owen	Pleasure Beach	Bev Wood	BWD Design
Steve Gill, Graham Arnold	Fylde Promotional Merchandise	John Salisbury	RBS
Jane Kelly	Sandcastle Waterpark	Deborah Brookes	People Plus
Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Vicki Ivanov	Candy House Entertainment
Lindsay Campbell, Heather Kennedy	Rowley's	Cameron Scott	Cam Scott Leisure
Nicola Spencer	M&S Outlet, Fleetwood	Lawrence McBurney	Cassidy & Ashton
Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla Resources	Julia Eastwood	Artisan Tiles
Vito Cinardi	Litigation Solutions	Chris Hibbert	Henco
Jill Gray	Blackpool Sixth	Joe Bullock, Tom Sharp	Whitbread
Robin Ross	Sand, Sea & Spray	Caryn and David Steele	Balloonatics
Mark Fox, Jeff Macnamara	Coral Island	Catherine Best	Best At Support Solutions
Debbs Lancelott, Mark Hickey	HoundsHill	Daniel Treece-Birch	St Annes Town Council
Amanda Reynolds	Marks & Spencer	Paul Williamson	Your Photographic Solutions
Jeff Smith, Martin Melling	JSM Building Solutions	David McGing	Ibis Styles
Amanda Westgate	Horizon		
<b>OBSERVERS/GUESTS</b>			
Philip Welsh, Peter Legg	Blackpool Council	Mark Whittaker	NW Counter Terrorism Unit
Mandy Lockett	East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce	Neil Williams	Blackpool Council
<b>APOLOGIES</b>			
Richard Lefton	The Lefton Group	Neil Jack	Blackpool Council
Alison Gilmore	Imperial Hotel	Philip Saunders	NatWest
Colin Taylor	Lights Ambassador	Coral Horn	Pink Link
Eileen Ormand	BID	Deborah Terras	UR Potential
Ian McGawley	Sainsbury's	Henry Baldwin	Northern Security
Sarah Rhodes	Rhodes Media	Rebecca Murdoch	Total Finance
David Houston	Trinity Hospice	Mick Grewcock	Burbage Holiday Group
Steve Whitehouse	FTS	John Richmond	Delphi Medical
Mark Yates	Brooks Collectables	Phil Baron	Pentagull
Clare Taylor	Duxbury's Commercial	Rob Knighton	Eclipse
Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co	Shaun Bennett	Links Signs and Graphics
Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Martin Long (chair, Napthens) welcomed members and thanked The Hilton Hotel for hosting the meeting.

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

No issues to report.

**3. Jobs, Friends and Houses**

Steve Hodgkins (Jobs, Friends & Houses Community Interest Company) gave a presentation on the innovative work that his organisation is undertaking to help rehabilitate offenders.

He said the people they were working with had often spent much of their adult life in jail, had no or little work experience, fractured family relationships and no stable accommodation.

He said that the project, which received a BIBA award earlier this year, gave offenders employment, friendship and the opportunity to create a stable home life.

He said that of the 50-strong team, two thirds were in recovery. To date, a total of 25 full-time jobs had been created and 15 stable tenancies. There had been zero re-offending.

He said that the unique project was now attracting interest from America and Australia.

A full copy of Steve's presentation, including contact details, can be found on the [www.bblq.co.uk](http://www.bblq.co.uk) website under Reports/Publications.

**4. Lancashire Business Growth Fund Programme**

Mandy Lockett (East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce) gave a presentation on the Lancashire Business Growth Fund Programme, which incorporates around £8m of potential grant funding for capital investment by businesses.

She said that the grants process was a very simple one and her team could assist in putting together bids.

It was noted that of the £3m so far committed in Lancashire, only £361k of grants had been paid out to businesses in Blackpool as a result of two successful applications.

She urged local businesses to take advantage of the programme.

A full copy of Ms Lockett's presentation can be found on the [www.bblq.co.uk](http://www.bblq.co.uk) website under Reports/Publications.

Further information can also be sought from Hugh Evans at the North West Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, email: [hughe@lancschamber.co.uk](mailto:hughe@lancschamber.co.uk)

**5. Horizon Support Services**

Amanda Westgate (Horizon Blackpool) gave a presentation on the Horizon support services which offers a fully integrated substance misuse treatment service for all Blackpool residents over the age of 25 who have problems with alcohol or drug use.

She said that the service offered a number of interventions, one-to-one appointments and group work to help those with an addiction.

Amanda said that businesses were being encouraged to work alongside Horizon in developing drug and alcohol policies that protect both the employee and employer. All the business needed to do was become a Friend of Horizon.

Employer support includes free training for HR staff and supervisors to help them identify and support substance misuse.

It was agreed that details of the Friends of Horizon scheme would be circulated with the notes of the meeting.

For further information, email: [amanda.westgate@adsolutions.org.uk](mailto:amanda.westgate@adsolutions.org.uk)

## 6. **Showzam! and LeftCoast Update**

Michael Trainor (LeftCoast) gave an update on the work being undertaken by the arts and cultural organisation, and also details of the planned Showzam! circus festival being planned for the February half-term in 2016. Mr Trainor reported that LeftCoast had now received confirmation of additional funding that would enable it to continue its work until 2019.

He said that there were a number of ways in which local businesses could get involved in the Showzam! festival with packages ranging from £150 to £15,000 and various incentives for sponsors. Further information on how business can help, email: [info@leftcoast.org.uk](mailto:info@leftcoast.org.uk)

A copy of Mr Trainor's presentation can be found on the [www.bblq.co.uk](http://www.bblq.co.uk) website under Reports/Publications.

## 7. **Security Briefing Sessions**

Mark Whittaker from the North West Counter Terrorism Unit gave the group an informal presentation on security briefing sessions that are to be staged for businesses in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks in Europe.

There are two specific sessions:

**Project Griffin** is a police initiative to protect cities, towns and communities from the threat of terrorism. It brings together and coordinates the resources of the police, emergency services, local authorities, business and the private sector security industry.

It is intended to:

- Raise awareness of the potential threat
- Raise awareness of hostile reconnaissance
- Increase understanding of methods of attack
- Give information on Improvised Explosive Devices
- Provide practical advice

It was noted that two Project Griffin sessions are to be held for businesses in the Tower Ballroom on December 14. Philip Welsh to circulate registration details of these after the meeting.

The second initiative, called Project Argus, is a National Counter Terrorism Security Office led initiative, which asks businesses and other organisations to consider their preparedness for a terrorist attack. It achieves this by guiding people through a simulated attack that identifies the measures that can assist in preventing, handling and recovering from such an incident.

This particular programme provides specific briefing sessions for various sectors including bars, pubs and clubs; cinemas and theatres; major events; shopping centres and hotels and restaurants.

Further details about the Project Argus sessions will be circulated to businesses when they are available.

## **8. Partnerships Report**

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting.

He drew the group's attention to the following items:

### **Blackpool Bathing Waters**

It was noted that Blackpool's beaches had all reached the standard required in order to prevent signs being erected advising people not to bathe.

He thanked the business community for the contribution that they had made in signing up to the Turning Tide and Love My Beach initiatives, and particularly to SeaLife Centre which had led the way in organising beach clean events.

He said the challenge now was to ensure that Blackpool maintained or improved the quality of its bathing waters on all of the resort's beaches.

### **2016 Destination Guide**

It was noted that the new Blackpool Destination Guide for 2016 had just been printed. PW said that the guide was very much of the same format and style as the 2015 publication, with high-quality photography used to showcase the resort.

Copies of the guide were given out to all BBLG members at the end of the meeting. A link to an electronic version of the guide can be found at [www.visitblackpool.com](http://www.visitblackpool.com)

### **Miss Peregrine Film**

PW reported that the Tim Burton film that was partly made in Blackpool was now scheduled to be released by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox as the Christmas film for 2016.

He said discussions were ongoing as to how Blackpool could capitalise on the film as part of its destination marketing activity for 2016.

### **Requests For Private Sector Support**

PW drew the group's attention to a number of items requesting private sector support including charity appeals for the annual Radio Wave charity auction and the international Shoebox Appeal; an invitation to a corporate parenting event; and a request for businesses to get involved in a careers options event in January.

He thanked those businesses that took part in the online survey as part of the strategic parking review that was being undertaken in Blackpool. He said there had been almost 70 responses from businesses.

### **Enterprise Zones**

Rob Green (Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Development Company) reported that two new Enterprise Zones had now been confirmed for the Fylde Coast – one on the site of Blackpool Airport, the other at Hillhouse in Thornton.

He said that the Blackpool Airport announcement had been quickly followed by confirmation that Blackpool & The Fylde College was to develop a new Energy Hub within the Enterprise Zone.

He said both of these EZ developments would offer significant incentives for businesses to invest there.

### **Shale Gas**

Rob Green also reported that an announcement had been made earlier that day stating that Communities Minister Greg Clark would be “calling in” the appeal made by Cuadrilla against Lancashire County Council’s rejection of its applications to explore for shale gas at two sites on the outskirts of Blackpool.

He said that a 12-day appeal hearing was still likely to go ahead in Blackpool in February 2016, but that the final decision on the appeals would then be made by Mr Clark.

### **9. Any Other Business**

Agreed that PW would provide a full list of BBLG meeting dates for 2016 with the notes of the next meeting.

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

Scheduled for 7.45am for 8.30am on Friday 29 January at The Village Hotel, Heron’s Reach, Blackpool. Further joining instructions to follow.