



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MAY 27, 2016 AT PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthens	Carmen Conquer, Helen Atkinson	Aspired Futures
Mark Croasdale	Whitehead and Howarth	John Barnett	The Wave/High Sheriff of Lancashire
Michael Williams	Winter Gardens	David Cam	Under Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster
Robert Grace	NatWest	Louise Logan	Career Ready
Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services	Philip Owen	Barclays
Andrew Hall	DPA Packaging	Susanne Johnson	Johnson's Emporium
Jane Cole	Blackpool Transport Services	Andrew Hamilton	Chamber of Commerce
Elaine Smith	Civic Trust	Sarah Rhodes	Rhodes Media
Jill Gray	Blackpool Sixth	Amanda Westgate	Big Impact Communications
John Child, Jane Kelly	Sandcastle Waterpark	Simon Brooke, Krisztina Szigeti	Happy Creative
Ruth Eastwood, Colin Johnston	Blackpool Grand Theatre	Alex McIntyre	Property Scene
Grace Bennett	Vista Online	Michael Trainor, Helen Clay	Left Coast
Rob Green, Mark Gillingham	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Devt Co	Michelle Smith	Carers Trust
Katherine O'Connor	BIS North West	Paul Hardy, Sophie Coane	Napthens
Andrew Fairbrother	Associated Training	Nick Taylor, Tom Cobden	Hilton
Deborah Brookes	People Plus	Paul and Karen Friday, Andrew Green	Future Focus Energy
Steve Whitehouse	Future Technology Services	Charlotte Gill-Ross	Ribby Hall
Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Paul Wilcock	Montpelier Group
Roger Mellor, Andrew Jackson	Glasdon	Jonathan Barnes	Santander
Steve Hodgkins	Jobs, Friends and Houses	Nicola Spencer	M&S Outlet, Fleetwood
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design/Wyred Up	Joan Blackburn, David McGuinness	Spire Hospitals
Vanda De Freitas	Positive Steps Into Work	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Peter Bennett	Assess, Design, Develop	Tony Raynor	Abbey Telecom
Allan Bowness	Ascent Trampoline Park	James Evans, Carl Pixton	High Level Specialists
Catherine Best	Best At Support Solutions	John Salisbury	RBS
Joe Best	EWS	Mark Fitzgerald	Sainsburys
Robert Owen, Nick Thompson	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Caryn and David Steele	Balloonatics
Rosey Rihani	RR Legal	Sunny Wang	Mayfaire Spa
Jon Paul Jackson	Jackson's Coaches	Andrew Wareing, Andy Atkinson	Voucher Packs
Bev Wood	BWD Design	Steve Gill	Fylde Promotional Merchandise
Aileen Ames	Higher Ames	Michael Richens	Blackpool & The Fylde College
Ron Bell	Colossal Group	Paul Williamson	Your Photographic Solutions
Kerian Barnes	Starboard Hotels	David McGing	Ibis Styles
Karl Worsley	DWP	Phil Bonell	Training Works
Debbs Lancelott, Mark Hickey	HoundsHill	Mick Grewcock	The Burbage Group
Joe Orban	Otech Systems	Wendy Swift	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals
Mark Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co	Alison Gilmore	Imperial Hotel
Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla	Amanda Elliott	Freeport Fleetwood
Dale Lawrenson, Simon Smith	Nat West	Lee Dumbrill	Sands Venue
Jim Firth	Genting Casino	Shirley Hunt	Cranstone Hotel
Dave Riche	LightPool	Norry Ascroft	Entertainer/Consultant
Tim Freshney	WJF Technical Support	Ashley Moore	Event Assembly
Ian Mallam	Digitav	Vicky Reynolds	Ashworth Treasure
Tom Willcox	Willcox PR	Michael Glen	PHX Training
Zoe Fleming	Roland Robinson and Fenton	Mandy Tythe-McCallum	Visit Blackpool
Helen Broughton	Danbro	Sean Gibbs, David Edwards	Harrison Drury
Dianne Turner	Independent Business Consultant	Robin Ross	Sand Sea and Spray
Keith Blackburn	Harrison Drury	Tony Jo	Morecambe and Wise 75 Committee
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Philip Welsh, Peter Legg	Blackpool Council	Polly Hamilton, David Slater	Blackpool Council
Andrew Mellor	St Nicholas Primary	Pam Bone	Pam Bone Associates
Tristan Sharp	dreamthinkspeak	David Simper	Blackpool Council
APOLOGIES			
Bev Robinson, Daryl Platt	Blackpool and the Fylde College	Pam Swain	British Asscn of Dental Nurses
Eileen Ormand	Town Centre BID	Nicola Atanassova	VisitBlackpool
Susanna Boccaccio	Brilliant Trees Media	Darrel Treece-Birch	St Annes Town Council
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs and Graphics	Riccy Caunce	Toast
Vito Cinardi	Litigation Solutions	Viv Cuthill	Collaborate Coaching
Pauline Lai	The Mandarin	David Hoyle	Happy Days Childcare
Erica Crompton	Big Foot Events	Kelly Gilmore	GP Strategies
Elaine Purves	Rossall School	Laila Remtulla	Laila's Fine Foods
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council	Colin Taylor	Illuminations Ambassador
Frank Heald	Voiteq	Tom Mercer	Handelsbanken
Lindsay Campbell	Rowleys	Philip Saunders	Nat West
Amanda Thompson	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Fiona Blaylock	Blackpool Piers Co
David Houston	Trinity Hospice	Darren Webster	Blackpool Zoo
Victoria Ivanov	Candy House	Mick Allen	Northern Powerhouse
Lisa Pearson	Merlin Entertainments	Michael Cuddy	Michael Cuddy Chartered Surveyors
Julia Eastwood	Artisan Tiles and Interiors	Jonathan Cropper	Kingswood Stationers
Coral Horn	Pink Link	Craig Corrin	Marks and Spencer
Barry Howard	McDonalds	Mike Hardaker	Moore and Smalley
Chris Hibbert	Henco	Anne Catterson	Common Purpose
Phil Baron	Pentagull	Jim Cadman	Cornerstone Marketing
Cath Stewart	Community Foundation		

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Long (chair, Napthens) welcomed members and thanked Blackpool Pleasure Beach for hosting the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

No issues to report.

3. Primary Futures

Andrew Mellor (St Nicholas School, Blackpool) and Steve Iredale (Primary Futures) gave a joint presentation on the national Primary Futures programme which has a number of key aims:

- ✳ Supporting the raising of standards of achievement for all primary school children
- ✳ Broadening horizons and raising aspirations
- ✳ Reinforcing the importance of literacy and numeracy in school and later life
- ✳ Helping children to see a clear link and purpose between their learning and their futures

A key element of the programme is to link schools with volunteers from the “world of work” using the specially designed Inspiring The Future database. The volunteers then commit to spending time within the schools inspiring children, though this can be as little as one hour per year.

It was noted that a special event to launch Primary Futures in Blackpool would be held at 10am on Thursday 16 June at St Nicholas Primary School in Blackpool. All primary school headmasters have been invited and employers are welcome to attend. For further details contact Andrew Mellor, email: andrew.mellor@st-nicholas.blackpool.sch.uk

The full presentation on Primary Futures can be viewed at the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

4. Kong Live/Absent

Michael Trainor (LeftCoast) and Tristan Sharp (artistic director of dreamthinkspeak) gave a joint presentation on two large-scale productions that would be staged in Blackpool over the next two years.

Absent

Tristan Sharp described this ambitious concept which will see the development of a “hotel” within the Winter Gardens for an immersive theatrical show in which the audience will “book” tours of the hotel and watch the drama unfold. Small groups will take a journey through some of the hidden spaces within the Winter Gardens.

Absent will be staged on selected dates between August 20 and September 29 this year. Full details at www.wintergardenshotel.co.uk

Kong Live

Michael Trainor then briefed the group on a recreation of the King Kong story, which will be staged in the resort in August/September 2017. He said that this would be staged across multiple indoor and outdoor venues and would be one of the biggest productions shown in the resort.

He said Kong Live would be produced by screenplay writer Frank Cottrell Boyce, who wrote the script for the 2012 Olympics opening ceremony.

Michael invited any businesses interested in being associated with either Absent or Kong Live to contact him. Email: art@popempires.org

5. **Young Carers – The Blackpool Opportunity**

Michelle Smith (Carers' Trust) gave a brief presentation on the BBC's plans to film a special edition of DIY SOS: The Big Build in which a run-down property in Blackpool (Blenheim House on Newton Drive) will be converted into a young carers' respite centre.

She said this special edition of the TV programme would be filmed in June/July and then broadcast on November 16 as part of the 2016 Children In Need Appeal. The project is being designed by Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, who was himself a young carer.

She said that a number of local traders/businesses had already come forward to assist and any other businesses interested in getting involved should contact lucy.jones@bbc.co.uk

6. **Morecambe and Wise Tribute**

Tony Jo (Blackpool entertainer and member of the Morecambe & Wise 75 Committee) gave a presentation on plans to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the comedians' first stage show together.

He said that the main objective was to raise £75,000 to create a statue of the comedy duo, which would then take pride of place within the Winter Gardens.

He said that the comedians' families had already contributed £20k towards the project and there would be other fund-raising initiatives including a charity show, likely to be staged at the Winter Gardens in September. Further information on how businesses can support this to be provided once the date is agreed.

A full copy of Tony Jo's presentation can be found on the www.bblq.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

7. **Business Partnerships Report**

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

Star Trek Exhibition:

Noted that the launch date for this exhibition had now gone back from June 8 to June 30.

Rail Electrification

PW drew the group's attention to the significant disruption that Blackpool was facing in the run-up to electrification of the Blackpool North to Preston line. He said there would be adverse impact on services from September this year to the spring of 2018 when the work is scheduled for completion. He said that discussions between Blackpool Council and the rail operators were ongoing in an attempt to mitigate the disruption. He said he would provide progress reports at future meetings.

8. **Any Other Business**

Illuminations/Sponsorship

Dave Riche (Blackpool Illuminations Business Development) set out some sponsorship opportunities for local businesses interested in helping to support the annual Illuminations.

He said that one of these opportunities was the purchase of a limited number of specially designed, illuminated sticks of rock, which would be displayed in a prominent position on the Promenade during the 2016 Illuminations season.

Any business interested in the rock scheme – or in other ways of sponsoring/supporting the Illuminations, contact david.riche@blackpool.gov.uk

West Coast Rail Franchise

David Simper (Blackpool Council Transport Team) tabled a briefing paper on the West Coast rail franchise renewal process.

The paper reported that the new franchise would commence from April 2018 (roughly coinciding with the completion of electrification between Blackpool North and Preston). As such, Blackpool Council intended to ask for direct train services on a scheduled basis to London, Birmingham and Glasgow to be specified within the new franchise.

Mr Simper said that the deadline for consultation submissions was August 2, 2016. He requested that the BBLG support the Council's case by:

- ✦ Providing letters (individual or collective) of support for the Council's request for new services
- ✦ Show how rail services benefit businesses now and how improved services might enhance this
- ✦ Providing data that is available support the case for improved services

PW emphasised the importance of the new franchise reflecting the importance of direct services to Blackpool that would help strengthen leisure and business tourism, as well as inward investment.

He said he would draft a response on behalf of the BBLG as a whole, but encouraged individual businesses, particularly those operating within the visitor economy, to add their weight to the argument.

Any letters of support should be sent to david.simper@blackpool.gov.uk by July 22.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Scheduled for 7.30am for 8.30am on **Friday 29 July** at The Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Further details to be provided in due course.