



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2019, AT THE WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthen's	Jake Adams	Mina Group
Scott Leadbetter	Cybevelo	Robert Owen	Pleasure Beach
Danny Thompson	Freedom Media	Ian Mallam	Digitav
Duncan Wilding	PHX Training	Ron Bell	Abbey Bell
Mike Lovell, Alexandra Meadowcroft	Chameleon Finance	Matthew Edwards, Alistair Cave	Mort & Pal Video Production
Lee Ferguson	Stonegate	John Holmes	Swallows
Claire Burrows, Sophie Edwards	Training Works	Robert Morland, Leigh Tregonning	Barclays
Kila Redfearn	Blue Skies Foundation	Paul and Robert Dewick-Day	Bella Vista Lodge
Effie Sharp	Randstad Education	Robin Ross	Rock Factory Studio
David Cam	Under-Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster	Johanne Agnola, Alison Holden	Upskilling Lancashire
Stephen Knowles	Eric Wright Construction	Colin Taylor	Lights Ambassador
Philip Owen	Consultant	Sara Dewhurst	Sand Grown Spirits
Coral Horn, Lizzie Beckford	Pink Link	Pam Isherwood	Renaissance
Krisztina Szigeti	Happy Creative	Mark Croasdale	Whitehead & Howarth
Anthony Brookes, Jackie Colebourne	CLVR Money	Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics
Mairead Platt	Brabners	Johnathon Townsend	Lloyds Banking
Andy Higgins	Postal and Data Systems	Paula Davies	The Wave
Stephen Booth	CCATS	Debbs Lancelott	Houndshell
Bev Wood	BWD Design	Kieran McGuinness, Melanie Whitehead	Electric Sunshine Project
Yusuf Musa	Enterprise 4 All	Michael Williams	Winter Gardens
Darren Foy	Aiming Higher	Stacey deRome	Boulevard Hotel
Helen Livesey	The Business Clinic	Nicole Billington	Enterprise Zone
Tom Mercer, Paul Drury	Handelsbanken	John & Jaki Armstrong	Majestic N-W
John Barnett	Stardream/The Wave	Jo Duff	Marks & Spencer
Nigel Patterson	Blackpool Museum	Karen Cooper, Jane Cole, Sally Shaw	BTS
Paul Hardy, James Allison	Napthens	Danny Dalton	Brightprint/Music & Mayhem
Neil Farley	Westinghouse	Alison Ramskill	Platform Two CIC
Julia Brown, Cathy Ross	DWP	Andy Mellor	Primary Futures
Peter Hargreaves	Blackpool Tech Hub	Adam and David Carter	Scanlite
Hamish Hamilton	Vistage	Geoff Moore	Canberra Hotel
Rebecca Murdoch	Brambles Consulting & Financing	Mike Coole	Groundwork
Pat Naylor	Homestart	Anthony Monks	Atlas
David Houston	Trinity Hospice	Sam and Aishley Doherty-Bell	Skool of Street
Emily Dixon	UCLAN	Heather Morrow	Blackpool Museum
Steve Whitehouse	FTS	Tom Metcalf	Little Touches
Mike Berry	Consultant	Susan Ridyard	St Mary's
Dawn Taylor	Shelby Group	Nicola Stott	Royal Hotel Group
Nicola Atanassova, Mandy Tythe-McCallum	VisitBlackpool	Chris Aiken-Graham	FSB
Debbi Hodson	Blackpool Sixth	Phil Holmes	Lightpool Festival
Ian White	StayBlackpool/Chorlton Hotel	Paul Smith	Blackpool Pride of Place
Owain Roberts	Northern Rail	Steve Fogg	Bae Systems, LEP
Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla	Tina Redford, Helen Jones	LeftCoast
Kat, Sam Ashcroft	Headway	James McAllister	AWOL TV
Jane Mahon, Claire Lee, Daryl Platt	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Lowri Williams	4Wall Entertainment
Jon Conway	Consultant	David Worsfold	Hive
Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Ray Eyre	Parkinson's
Toby Simpson	Coffeebrook	Joe Boniface	Boniface Architects
Paul Friday, Andy Green	Future Focus Energy	Belinda Shore	Santander
Andy Mitchell	The Wave	Francis Jeeva	
Daniel Carlyle	Lancs Chamber	George Thwaytes	Lancs Chamber
Julia Blackett	Sainsburys	Paul Stewart	Save Association
Tim Gavell	The Gazette	Martin & Marina Blore	Fit The Bill
Michelle Walker	Responsible Business Network	Mark Smith	Accountant
Claire Fitzsimmons	Blackpool FC Hotel	Julie Hooper	GB Music Events
Colin Johnston	Grand Theatre	Elaine Smith	Friends of Stanley Park
Linda Halliwell	The Village Hotel	Sue Littlefair	Washington Group
OBSERVERS/GUESTS/HOSTS			
Steve Thompson, Philip Welsh	Blackpool Council	Peter Legg, David Slater	Blackpool Council
APOLOGIES			
Chris Maine	DPA Packaging	Yvonne Fenney	Consultant
Katherine O'Connor	Northern Powerhouse	Andrew Wareing, Andy Atkinson	Voucher Packs
Grahame Latus	Enterprise Answers	Andrea Wallace	Wyre Council
Michelle Smith	Blackpool Carers	Chris Hibbert	Henco

Kev Donnelly	XP Web Services	Simon Smith	Natwest
Yvonne Cooper	DWP	Amanda Crossley	Concierge Ninja
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose	Stephen Godfrey	Fujitsu UK
Jill Gray, Tina Cooper	Blackpool Sixth	Jane Hugo	Streetlife
Chris Jackson	Northern Rail	Jade Gregory-Haselden	Lancashire MIND
Mark Nelson	Macaw Project	Janet Atkins	Trinity Hospice
Stuart Moorhouse	Jackson Bacon	Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design
Andy Percival	Blackpool In Bloom	Adrian Tottey	Create Construction
Roger Mellor	Glasdon	Sham Sangha	Silicon Talent
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council	Phillip Parramore	Guidedotyou
Helen and Damian Broughton	Danbro	Paul Crossley	Kenrick's
Joe Best	EW Support	Wendy Hope	Stanley House
Paul Isherwood	Stressbuster Works	Sofia Chezene-Theophilou	SFPF Awards

1. Welcome and apologies

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

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

Nothing to report.

3. Winter Gardens

Michael Williams (Managing Director, Winter Gardens) welcomed guests to the Baronial Hall. He showed a short film, showcasing the expansive programme of entertainment at the Winter Gardens as well as new investment including the conference and exhibition centre and refurbishment of the Spanish Hall. He advised BBLG members that they could collect two complimentary tickets for the October 2 evening performance of Kinky Boots at the Opera House by visiting the box office after the meeting.

4. Preparing For Brexit

Steve Thompson (Director of Resources, Blackpool Council) gave the group a brief insight into some of the issues that were likely to affect businesses in the event of a No-Deal Brexit at the end of October.

He highlighted a number of areas where there might be an implication for business including regulatory issues, employment, data handling, currency fluctuations, and partnership working.

He said that latest research suggested that 42 per cent of SMEs were still not prepared for a No-Deal Brexit.

He said that as the designated Brexit lead officer for Blackpool Council, any businesses looking for help or guidance could contact him at steve.thompson@blackpool.gov.uk.

Other guidance could be sought at these Government sites:

<https://www.gov.uk/brexit>

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

Steve also highlighted a Chamber of Commerce Help For Brexit service in conjunction with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. This included a programme of activities throughout October including webinars, seminars, workshops, training courses and business clinics.

The Help For Brexit Service is free to all businesses operating in Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre, Preston, Lancaster, Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire.

Full details of the event programme can be seen at www.helpforbrexit.co.uk

5. CLVR Money

Ron Bell and Anthony Brookes gave the group an insight into CLVR Money, the credit union that serves Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre and Preston.

Ron said that it was originally established 10 years ago as the Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Credit Union and had since grown incrementally to the point where it now had 5,000 local people as members and £5m in reserves.

He said it was a modern credit union, regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, with attractive offices on Birley Street in Blackpool town centre and with most of its business transacted online.

Ron said it was established as a partnership with businesses and organisations including Blackpool Council, Blackpool & The Fylde College, UCLAN and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, with employees electing to become members and saving through payroll deductions.

Those savings were, in turn, used to make loans to help borrowers in need avoid doorstep lenders. He said that approximately £2m in loans was put out to local people every 14 months.

Anthony added that the credit union was looking for more businesses to become payroll partners. He said the primary objective was to promote good financial management, build savings and offer affordable lending. He said it cost nothing for a business to become a payroll partner.

Any business interested in becoming a partner, contact ronbell@ronbell.org or anthony@clevr.money

6. International Men's Day

Sue Littlefair (The Washington Group) and Paul Stewart (Save Association) gave a joint presentation on issues relating to mental health, particularly in relation to men.

They pointed out that most businesses would have people suffering from mental health-related issues within their workplace, but these were not always apparent. They highlighted Blackpool Transport Services as one local business that had devised a strategy for mental health and wellbeing for its workforce, a model which had subsequently been used in other areas.

Paul, a former Blackpool and England footballer, gave the group his personal insight into mental health.

Businesses were encouraged to sign up to an International Men's Day event which will be staged at Blackpool Football Club between 9.30am and 4pm on Tuesday 19 November. The event has been designed to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing, and the prevalence of male suicide.

Attendees will be able to listen to real life stories, attend interactive workshops, visit a marketplace of community support organisations, and sign up to the Time To Change campaign.

Places are limited to 100 businesses that are either based in Blackpool or employ local residents. To register, go to: [Eventbrite IMD2019](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/international-men-s-day-2019-tickets-54444444444) . For more information email: suelittlefair@twguk.org

The presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations

7. Pride Of Place Partnership

Paul Smith (Special Projects Director, Pride Of Place Partnership) and Steve Fogg (chair of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and board member of Blackpool Pride Of Place) gave a joint presentation on the work being undertaken in Blackpool.

Paul gave the group an insight into the make-up of the partnership and reported on the lobbying work that was being undertaken to ensure that Blackpool got a better deal from central Government. He said there were various initiatives underway relating to inward investment and improved infrastructure.

Steve told of the importance of employers engaging with young people to drive up ambition in local schools He said that there would be a special breakfast event organised by the Fylde Coast Responsible Business Network at Blackpool Football Club on October 17. Any business wanting to attend, please register using this link: <http://bit.ly/2Z5OYAI>

8. Enterprise Week

David Slater (Blackpool Council Business Support Team) gave the group an insight into the programme for this year's Blackpool Enterprise Week, which is being staged from November 18-22 and includes workshops and events for start-ups and young businesses.

He also revealed details of a Blackpool Business Growth Conference to be held in the Spanish Hall in the Winter Gardens on November 26. This is a free event for established and growing businesses.

To book or get further information, go to: www.blackpoolunlimited.com

David's presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations

9. The Blackpool Colour Palette

Tina Redford, artistic director for LeftCoast, presented on an innovative "Painting The Town" initiative which had been developed in association with Johnstone's Paints.

She said this had resulted in the creation of a palette of 10 paint colours inspired by Blackpool residents' stories. It was intended that the range of paints form part of a place-making campaign for businesses and organisations to come together to improve the built environment.

It would also support the arts in the town as every tin sold would give a contribution to new art programmes.

Tina said that the first working partnership had been established with Blackpool Pleasure Beach, which involved use of the colour palette on the buildings on Ocean Boulevard. These would be unveiled at a special launch event at the White Tower building on October 3, to which all businesses were welcome to attend.

Other businesses were encouraged to get involved with large volumes of paint being offered at a discount. For further information, email: Tina.redford@leftcoast.org.uk

The full presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations

10. Lightpool Festival

Phil Holmes, the festival's creative director, showed a film and gave a short presentation on the plans for the 2019 Lightpool Festival.

He said that this year's event would extend from October 11 to 26 and would provide a mix of live performance, light-based art installations and community events.

Phil said that the programme included the world premiere of a replica Sun installation in the Winter Gardens and a replica Earth in the Tower Ballroom, as well as a return of the Carnival Of The Lights. All events will be free to attend. The full programme can be viewed here: <https://www.visitblackpool.com/things-to-do/festival/>

11. Business Partnerships Report

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

The Royal Photographic Society's Hundred Heroines exhibition which was being staged at the Hive coffee shop and bake-house on Church Street until October 6.

The restoration of the historic Spanish Hall in the Winter Gardens. He said this had benefited from a £1.9m makeover and encouraged members of the group to view the renovated room while they were in the building.

12. Any Other Business

Swallows Fund-Raising

John Holmes gave the group an update on the Bridlington to Blackpool charity bike ride that was staged by the Swallows charity funds to mark World Head & Neck Cancer Day and raise funds to buy a £125k laser machine for the Blackpool Ear, Nose & Throat unit at Victoria Hospital. He said the ride had raised more than £17k, but there was still some way to go to reach the target. He encouraged businesses to donate using the Just Giving page:

http://campaign.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/theswallows/donation?social_utm_term=iz2ft_tcb5

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Scheduled for 7.30am (breakfast) for 8.30am (meeting) on Friday 29 November at the Paradise Rooms, Blackpool Pleasure Beach.