



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MARCH 27, 2015 AT ROWLEY'S/BLACKPOOL FC HOTEL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair), Malcolm Ireland	Napthens	Jane Cole	Blackpool Transport Services
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design/Wyred Up	David Cam	Consultant
Lawrence McBurney	Cassidy & Ashton	Nigel Kilgallon	Blackpool Pleasure Beach
Kila Redfearn, Anthony Williams	Winter Gardens	Steve Gill, Graham Arnold	Fylde Promotional Merchandise
Jonathan Cropper	Kingswood Stationers	Steve Whitehouse	FTS Electrics
Jane Kelly	Sandcastle	John Woodman	Blackpool FC
Mark Hickey	Houndshill	Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services
Rosey Rihani	Legal Practitioner	Barry Howard	McDonalds UK
Neil Foulkes	HSBC	Erica Crompton, Kevin Reilly	Big Foot Events
Ruth Eastwood	Grand Theatre	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Matt Wells	Lancashire Cheesecake Co	Jon-Paul Jackson	Jacksons Coaches
Peter Jefferson	Visionistic	Caryn and David Steele	Balloonatics
Daryl Platt	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Shirley Hunt	Cranstone Hotel
Nicola Atanassova, Mandy Tythe-McCallum	Visit Blackpool	Colin Taylor	Illuminations Ambassador
Lindsay Campbell	Rowley's	Adam Taylor	Duxburys Commercial
Philip Hardcastle	New Market	Chris Walne	Chamber of Commerce
Philip Crowther	Helms Briscoe	Tim Fielding	BBE Law
Paul Crossley	Kenrick and Co	Louise Logan	Careers Academy
Cameron Scott	Cam Scott Leisure	Bev Wood	BWD
Stuart Livesey	Consultant	Ian McGawley	Sainsburys
Stephen Thorpe	CME Medical	Jayne Hart	Harts Amusements
Liz Edmondson	Johnston Press	Susan Bamber	The Village, Heron's Reach
Paul Linderman	The Berkeley Apartments	Mick Grewcock	Burbage Group
Sue Lockwood Helm	The Hilton, Blackpool	David Clewes, Susie Gallagher	Store It
Andy Fraser	Blackpool Granite	Andy Atkinson	Voucher Packs
Norry Ascroft	Entertainer/Consultant	Andy Dobson	Atlas Sailing
Helen Atkinson, Lorna Lightfoot	Aspired Futures	Andy Higgins	The Mailing Room
Joan Blackburn	Spire Healthcare	Paul and Karen Friday	Future Focus Energy
Yvonne Cooper	Blackpool Job Centre	Alex McIntyre	Property Scene
Jim Firth	Genting Casino	Paul Isherwood	Stressbuster Works
Philip Owen	Barclays	Yusuf Musa	Winning Pitch
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose	Deborah Terras	UR Potential
David McGing, Angelique Gonzales	Ibis	Jeff Smith, Dave Wilcock	JSM Building Solutions
Peter Lea	S Class Cars	Rebecca Murdoch	Total Finance
Vito Cinardi	Litigation Solutions	Cassie Troughton, Danny Thompson	Heart FM
Alan Lockett	PHX Training	Karen Woolton	The Wave
Riccy Caunce	Toast	Kate Shane	Blackpool Tower
James Maddison-Neill	Marks and Spencer	Philip Helm	Tyson Construction
John Barnett	Stardream/The Wave	Phillip Parramore	8 Business Networking
Rob Green, Mark Gillingham	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC	Sarah Rhodes	Rhodes Media
Mark Yates	Brooks Collectables	Joe Bullock	Whitbread
Susanne Johnson	FSB/Johnsons of Bond Street	Ashley Dribben	Metcalf's
Chris Curtis	FSB	Craig Evans	Voiteq
Katie Upton	The Gazette	Steve Singleton, Sam Schofield	Cuadrilla
Ian Fogg	Business In The Community	Ruth Patton	Patton's Community
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Philip Welsh, Alan Cavill	Blackpool Council	Peter Legg, David Slater	Blackpool Council
APOLOGIES			
Rob Knighton	Eclipse Developments	Paul Whelan	Tyson Construction
Paul Mathison	Create Construction	John Magee	Freeport
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs and Graphics	Alison Gilmore	Imperial Hotel
Cassie Forshaw	Merlin Entertainments	Neil Jack	Blackpool Council
Nikki Hart	Blackpool Food Partnership	Roger Mellor, Andrew Jackson	Glasdon
David Hardy	Champion Group	Philip Saunders	Natwest
David Houston	Trinity Hospice	Vicky Reynolds	Ashworth Treasure
Nick Leach	Natwest	Neil Sutch	RBS
Gary Smith	A4e	Dan Wootton	Dan Wootton Photography
Richard Lefton	Lefton's Group	Robin Ross	Sand, Sea and Spray
Julia Eastwood	Artisan Tiles	Steve Hill	Mencap
Jeremy Smith	Lytham Coffee Co	Karen Lambert, Simon Brooke	Happy Creative
David Hoyle	Happy Days Childcare	Steve Pye	Addison Projects
Joan Nickson	Northern Rail	Doug Garrett	Close Link
Charlotte Gili-Ross	Ribby Hall	Chris Maine	Dpa Packaging
Damian and Helen Broughton	Danbro	Gerry Lynch	Gem Associates
Chris Hibbert	Henco	Lee Kirton	Colossal Group
Mike Walton, Paul Crouch	AKS	Mike Hardaker	Moore and Smalley

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Long (chair, Napthens) welcomed members and thanked Rowley's/Blackpool FC Hotel for hosting the meeting. Each attendee introduced themselves.

The chairman then gave a brief summary of the meeting he had held earlier that week with Lee Kirton (Colossal Group) with regards to the inward investment and funding issues raised at the last meeting in January.

He said this had been a very constructive meeting and agreement had been reached on how such issues should be raised in future.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

No issues to report.

3. Youth Potential

Norry Ascroft (aka entertainer Lionel Vinyl) gave a presentation on the work he undertakes with young people across Blackpool, tackling issues such as bullying and self-esteem.

He urged the members of the group to share their experiences and stories with him so that these could be fed back to young people to help inspire them.

Norry said he was planning to stage a free, hour-long session for members of the BBLG at 8.30am on April 24 at The Hilton, Blackpool, where he would share some of his motivational training techniques and human behaviour expertise.

An invitation will be sent out under separate cover. Anyone interested in attending should contact Norry at norryascroft@outlook.com

4. Putting On A Show

Peter Taylor (Cuffe & Taylor) gave a presentation on the events that his company stages across the Fylde Coast including Lytham Proms and headline concerts at Bloomfield Road (Rod Stewart in 2014, Neil Diamond in 2015).

He said that the main event was the Lytham Proms event, which had been re-branded as Lytham Festival for 2015 and would now be spread across an entire week from August 2 to 9.

He said this expansion would mean four days of concerts on Lytham Green, with Faithless on the Thursday, an 80s v 90s night on the Friday, Songs From Stage And Screen on the Sunday, and a headline act to be announced on the Saturday.

Other new events across Lytham will include an outdoor cinema at Lytham Hall, a jazz café at the Lytham Assembly Rooms, and a Festival Of Stories for children at the Park View 4U outdoor park.

He said that the economic impact of the Lytham Festival was worth over £10m to the local economy and said there would be a big benefit to hotels across Blackpool as most hotels in Lytham and St Annes were already booked up over the festival period.

Anthony Williams (Winter Gardens) then gave a presentation on the 2015 programme scheduled for the Winter Gardens.

He said that this would be the biggest ever programme planned for the venue and included the West End production of CATS during the summer; the revival of Tommy The Rock Opera; Tommy Steele in The Glenn Miller Story; David Hasselhoff in a new musical, Last Night A DJ Saved My Life; and the touring production of A Christmas Carol during December.

He said that other events such as the Blackpool Dance Festival in May continued to grow, bringing enormous benefit to the resort, and a Chinese version had now been launched, branded as the Blackpool Dance Festival, Shanghai.

He said the Winter Gardens was also looking to create its own events and was currently exploring a new dance festival with the Royal Opera House.

5. South Beach Retail Offer

Mark Yates (Brooks Collectables) gave a presentation on his unique business based in Waterloo Road, Blackpool. He said it was established in 1949 and specialised in vintage toys, retro gifts and also housed a toy museum and retro arcade with penny slot machines.

He said that the shop attracted visitors from all over the world, but often struggled to attract the attention of local people.

He said that there were other similar niche businesses in the South Shore retail district around Waterloo Road and Bond Street that suffered from a similar identity problem, and he said a push was urgently needed to promote the area with events in order to raise the profile of the range of specialist shops.

Susanne Johnson (Johnsons of Bond Street) added that there were 14 niche shops in the Waterloo Road and Bond Street area, and these were the type of businesses that would keep people using the High Street.

She said a map had been produced to promote this specialist offer and she urged other businesses to stock the maps in their own offices.

6. Destination Management Plan

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) distributed copies of the new three-year Destination Management Plan for Blackpool.

He said the plan showcased the investment that had been made in Blackpool over the past few years and also set out the key objectives for the next three years, including the repositioning of Blackpool as a year-round, family destination.

He said that if any businesses wanted any additional copies to send to their own head offices, or to display in reception areas, to contact him. An online version of the plan can be viewed here: <http://issuu.com/visitblackpool/docs/dmp/1>

Ruth Eastwood (Grand Theatre) asked what consultation had been done with local businesses over the plan. Philip Welsh said that the original brand repositioning work, which underpinned the Destination Management Plan, had been the subject of extensive consultation with local businesses.

7. Business Partnerships Report

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting.

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

Illuminations Banquet and Ball

To be staged by the Friends of the Illuminations on Friday 17 April at Viva Blackpool. Tickets available from Shirley.hunt1@btopenworld.com

Vacancies for board members

Independent private sector representation is being sought on the boards of two of Blackpool Council's arms-length companies – Blackpool Coastal Housing and Blackpool Entertainments Company (set up to oversee the Winter Gardens).

He said any BBLG member interested in taking up one of these voluntary roles should contact him in the first instance at Philip.welsh@blackpool.gov.uk

8. Any Other Business

No other items of business.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Scheduled for 7.45am for 8.30am on Friday 29 May at Pleasure Beach. Further joining instructions to follow.