



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MAY 31st, 2013 AT VIVA! SHOWBAR, BLACKPOOL

| Name | Organisation |
|---|---|
| Present: | |
| Martin Long (chair) | Napthens |
| Steve Pye | Federation of Small Business |
| Bev Robinson | Blackpool & The Fylde College |
| David Cam | Pleasure Beach |
| Tracey Bell/Melanie Garside (guest) | Scream Management |
| Jonathan Cropper | Kingswood Stationers |
| Philip Owen | Barclays |
| Janet Berry, John Hesketh | One Blackpool |
| Jane Littlewood | Rabbit Design/Wyred Up |
| Lucy Hodge | The Villa Outside |
| Kate Shane | Blackpool Tower |
| Gareth Carr | Job Centre Plus |
| Alex McIntyre | The Property Scene |
| Rob Knighton | Eclipse Developments |
| Trevor Roberts | Blackpool Transport |
| Kath Howard, Carol Redwoods | PK Kids Nursery |
| Neil Foulkes | HSBC |
| Eileen Ormand | Town Centre BID |
| Praful & Shilpa Patel | Carlton Hotel |
| Gary Blackadder | Blackpool Dungeon |
| Deborah Parker | Progress Recruitment |
| Colin Johnston | Blackpool Grand Theatre |
| Coral Horn | Pink Link |
| Mark Hickey | Hounds Hill |
| Robin Ross | Blackpool Artists |
| Richard Lefton | Lefton's Furniture |
| Susan Bamber | Village Heron's Reach |
| Michelle Smith | Blackpool Carers |
| Cath Stewart | Community Foundation |
| Carmen Conquer | Aspired Futures |
| David Hardy | Champion Accountants |
| David Chapman | Linksgate Leisure |
| Tommy Baldwin | Northern Security |
| Marco Calle-Calatayud | Kwizeen |
| David Jones | Thirty30 Media |
| Andy Atkinson | Voucher Packs |
| Gary Sawyer | AI Claims |
| John Child | Sandcastle Waterpark |
| Paul Symes, Natalie Brown | Business In The Community |
| Martin Heywood | Viva! |
| Rob Walker | Yes magazine |
| Paul Whelan | Tyson Construction |
| Simon Brooke | Happy Creative |
| Claire Smith | Number One Hotels |
| Wendy Swift | Blackpool Teaching Hospitals |
| Clare Taylor | Duxburys Commercial |
| Philip Holmes | In The Pink |
| Rob Green | Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Development Co |
| Mark Yates | Brooks Collectables |
| John Barnett | Stardream |
| Damien Broughton | Danbro |
| Cameron Scott | Camscott Leisure |
| Peter Glenn, Ray Eyres | Parkinsons |
| Graham Wood | Consultant |
| Gary Smith | A4e |
| Damien Gibbs | Butson Biofield |
| Jenn Newton | Sea Life Centre |
| Amanda Bennett | Marketing Blackpool |
| Advisers/Observers/Guests | |
| Cllr Simon Blackburn, Leader of Blackpool Council | Blackpool Council |
| Peter Legg, Philip Welsh | Blackpool Council |
| Andy Walker | Lancashire County Council |
| Wendy Bowers | Winning Pitch |
| Apologies | |
| Roger Mellor | Glasdon |
| Neil Jack, Alan Cavill | Blackpool Council |
| Felicity Greeves | Blackpool Sixth Form |
| Barry Howard | McDonalds UK |
| Sean Killingbeck | Giles Insurance |
| Michael Williams | Cuerden Leisure |
| Anne Catterson | Common Purpose |
| Neil Riley | Applkore |
| Victoria Reynolds | Ashworth Treasure |
| Alison Gilmore | Imperial |
| Robert Wynne | West Coast |
| Nick Leach | RBS |
| Michael Hyman | Leonard Dews |
| Janine Marshall | Genting Casino |
| Nick Taylor | Blackpool Hilton |
| Darren Webster | Blackpool Zoo |
| Chris Hibbert | Henco |
| Carl Simpson | M&S |
| Pauline Lai | The Mandarin |
| David Houston | Trinity Hospice |
| Wendy Harrison | Café Fresch |
| Sue Kendrick | Blackpool Airport |
| Iain Hawkins | Merlin |
| Neil Sutch | RBS |
| Maria Noto | Lancaster House Hotel |

1. Welcome and apologies

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

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

Investment Showcase

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) said that since the last investment showcase event (staged as part of the March 2013 BBLG meeting) two or three businesses had expressed an interest in taking part in a similar event. He said he was provisionally looking to do this as part of the September meeting – any businesses that didn't take part in the first showcase, but would like to take part in the next to contact philip.welsh@blackpool.gov.uk

Pauline Waterhouse Retirement

Philip Welsh reported that the retirement event for Pauline Waterhouse, the outgoing principal and chief executive of Blackpool & The Fylde College had been staged at the Empress Grill in the Winter Gardens. He thanked those businesses that were able to attend and said that Mrs Waterhouse had been extremely appreciative of the gesture.

Martin Long (chairman) welcomed Bev Robinson (Mrs Waterhouse's successor) to the meeting.

3. Question & Answer Session with Cllr Simon Blackburn, Leader of Blackpool Council

The Leader of Blackpool Council took part in an extensive Q&A session, answering questions on a range of subjects including:

- The potential negative impact of welfare benefit reforms on the local economy;
- The importance of the cultural offer in Blackpool;
- The impact of the 999 television series and its subsequent repeat showing on Channel 4;
- The future of town centre CCTV;
- Fracking;
- The withdrawn application for city status;
- The role of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and Blackpool's ability to influence it;
- Procurement opportunities for local businesses;
- Inward investment at Talbot Gateway and the Central Station site;
- The proposed EMRO order in Blackpool town centre;
- The review of the Promenade in front of the Tower;
- The role of the third sector in supporting the Council.

Martin Long (chairman) asked the Council Leader how the business community could most effectively contribute to his vision for Blackpool.

Cllr Blackburn said that positivity was a key contribution that businesses could make. He said that the messages that Blackpool sent out needed to be framed in such a way that they attracted people into the town. He said that too often messages were negative and served only to deter people. Cllr Blackburn said there was a collective responsibility to work smarter in this area and help present a greater level of positivity to the outside world.

The chairman thanked Cllr Blackburn for taking part in the Q&A session.

4. **Business Growth Initiatives**

Lancashire Growth Hub

Andy Walker (Lancashire County Council) gave a presentation on the new Boost Business Lancashire service which is soon to go live.

The new growth hub is intended to help businesses create more than 1200 jobs by 2015, safeguard a further 700 and boost the Lancashire economy by £20m.

Through the hub, firms with high-growth potential will be prioritised for access to practical specialist advice, coaching and mentoring. It will bring together a package of growth-related services in one place.

To view Andy's full presentation, go to www.bblg.co.uk/reports.aspx and look under the "Associated Reports" section.

Growth Accelerator Programme

Wendy Bowers (Winning Pitch) gave a more detailed presentation on one aspect of the Boost Business Lancashire programme – the Growth Accelerator.

She said the programme was aimed at ambitious businesses and indicated that there were 60 places available for such businesses in Blackpool and the Fylde Coast over the next two years.

To view Wendy's full presentation, go to www.bblg.co.uk/reports.aspx and look under the "Associated Reports" section.

5. **Business Partnerships Report**

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

Promenade Consultation

He reported the formal consultation over the four options for the promenade was due to end at midnight on May 31. He encouraged any businesses that hadn't yet completed the survey or passed on their comments to do so.

The survey can be completed at: <https://surveymonkey.com/s/blackpoolpromenade>

Alternatively, comments could be sent to cllr.john.jones@blackpool.gov.uk, again by the May 31 deadline.

The Leader of the Council had earlier indicated that a decision on which option to take was likely to be made at the July Cabinet meeting.

EMRO Consultation

The formal consultation over the proposed Early Morning Restriction Order (EMRO) in the town centre is due to commence on June 13 and last for 42 days.

Superfast Lancashire

This investment in broadband is now due to be completed in Blackpool by March 2014. It was suggested that a more detailed presentation on the opportunities that this opens up to local businesses to be given at the July meeting of the BBLG.

Blackpool Investment Fund

It was noted that the investment fund had been agreed and that the eligibility criteria were now being drawn up. Once this process has been completed (over the next few weeks), the fund will be promoted to the business community and applications sought.

Bathing Waters

It was noted that several businesses were actively engaged in initiatives relating to the improvement of Blackpool's bathing waters. He said that if any other businesses wished to become involved (eg, in organised beach cleans), they should contact him at: philip.welsh@blackpool.gov.uk

6. Any Other Business

Sand, Sea & Spray Urban Arts Festival

Robin Ross gave a brief presentation on the forthcoming urban arts festival, to be staged in Blackpool on June 14, 15 and 16. He said that this free event would see 40 artists from four continents painting "live" at six different locations across Blackpool.

He said that the event had now grown to become one of the biggest of its kind in the UK and this year it would see a number of associated events and exhibitions at venues such as FYCreatives, the Theatre Bar in the Winter Gardens, the Town Hall and the Hounds Hill Shopping Centre where a shop was now open for business. For full details of the Sand, Sea & Spray festival go to: <http://www.sandseaandspray.co.uk/>

Meet The Mayor Business Events

Philip Welsh reported that the newly-elected Mayor of Blackpool, Cllr Eddie Collett, wanted to hold a series of informal meetings with the business community. He said that the first of these was provisionally scheduled for **4pm on Tuesday 18 June** in the Mayor's Parlour. He said he would send out invitations in the week commencing June 3.

BBC

David Cam (Pleasure Beach) reported that the resort seemed to be attracting a disproportionate amount of negative coverage from the BBC. He said that in an attempt to change perceptions, the various visitor attractions had joined together with Marketing Blackpool to invite every member of staff and their families at the new BBC North offices in Media City to visit the resort during a week in June. This would enable them to see for themselves the range of attractions on offer and also see the improvements in quality across the resort.

7. Date and time of next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for **8am for 8.30am, Friday 26th July, 2013** at **The Winter Gardens, Blackpool**. Parking and breakfast arrangements to be confirmed.