



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MARCH 28, 2014, AT VIVA SHOWBAR, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthens	Caryn Steele	Balloonatics
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design/Wyred Up	Jayne Hart	Harts Amusements
Paul Wilcock	Montpelier	Deborah Parker	Progress Recruitment
Ian McGawley	Sainsbury's	Pam Roberts	Pleasure Beach
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Nick Taylor	Hilton	Sean Crofts	Premiere Recruitment
Ray Eyre	Parkinsons	Stephen Thorpe	CME Medical
David Jones	Thirty30 Media	Yusuf Musa	Winning Pitch
Stuart Livesey	Consultant	Annie Ogilvie	Blackpool Transport
Chris Maine	Direct Paper Agents	Paul Crossley	Kenrick and Co
Daryl Platt, Michelle Riley	Blackpool & The Fylde College	John Child	Sandcastle
Debbs Lancelott, Mark Hickey	Hounds Hill	Robin Ross	Sand, Sea and Spray
Shirley Hunt	Cranstone	Wayne Smith	Northern Rail
Philip Owen	Barclays	Mike Davenport, Nigel Armstrong	Armbro Ultrawear
Clare Taylor	Duxbury's	John McIntyre, James Brown	Wet Wall Warning
Martin Heywood	Viva	Annie Heslop	Love My Beach
Philip Helm, Nick Bell, Paul Whelan	Tyson Construction	Iain Hawkins	Merlin
Vito Cinardi	Risk Intel	Fred Wills	First Medical
Ruth Eastwood	Grand Theatre	Rebecca Wells	One Blackpool
Tony Morgan	Superfast Lancashire	Darren Webster	Blackpool Zoo
Steve Gill, Graham Arnold	Fylde Promotional Merchandise	Steve Pye	EEE Partnerships
Michelle Smith	Blackpool Carers	Ruth Patton	Pattons
Ian Atkinson	Coronation Rock	Jenn Newton	Sea Life
Joanna Kay	Digital Guys	Mick Grewcock	Queens Mansions
Mike Hardaker	Moore & Smalley	Kimberley Barrett-St Vall	Napthens
Barry Howard	McDonalds	Louise Logan	Blackpool Sixth
Gareth Carr	Job Centre Plus	Karen Lambert, Simon Brooke	Happy Creative
John Woodman	Blackpool FC	Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla
Vicky Reynolds	Ashworth Treasure	Tom Swire, Chris Days	Spotless UK
Natalie Brown	Business In The Community	Neil Foulkes	HSBC
David Houston	Trinity Hospice	John Barnett	Stardream/The Wave
Vanda De Freitas	Positive Steps/A4e	Lucy Hodge	The Villa
Simon Holden	Nat West	Rob Walker	Yes Magazine
Nicola Atanassova, Mandy Tythe McCallum	Visit Blackpool	Michael Williams, Kila Redfearn	Crown Leisure
Claire Smith	Number One Hotels	Neil Sutch	RBS
Helen Atkinson	Aspired Futures	Anne Catterson	Common Purpose
Rob Knighton	Eclipse	Norrie Ascroft	Entertainer
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Polly Hamilton, Philip Welsh, Peter Legg	Blackpool Council	Sarah Lambert	Blackpool Council (Better Start Bid)
APOLOGIES			
Bev Wood	BWD Design	Peter Lea	S Class Cars
Sue Kendrick	Blackpool Airport	Alison Gilmore	The Imperial
Bev Robinson	Blackpool & The Fylde College	David Hardy	Champion Accountants
Neil Jack, Alan Cavill	Blackpool Council	Coral Horn	Pink Link
Roger Mellor	Glasdon	Alex McIntyre	Property Scene
Michael Hyman	Leonard Dews	Cameron Scott	Cam Scott Leisure
Fiona Reid	Ascroft Whiteside	Cath Stewart	Community Foundation
David Cam	Consultant	Justin Allitt	JD Allitt
Nick Leach	RBS	Jeremy Smith	Lytham Coffee
Gary Smith	A4e	Rob Green	EDC
David Cam	Consultant	Pam Swain	British Asscn of Dental Nurses
Robert Owen	Pleasure Beach	Kate Shane	Blackpool Tower
Richard Lefton	Leftons Group	Kristen Durose	Red Star Wealth
Chris Hibbert	Henco	Joseph Boniface	Boniface Architects
Dale Lawrenson	Nat West	Mark Yates	Brooks Collectables
Bob Mason	Blackpool Transport Services	Sarah Rhodes	Visit Blackpool

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Long welcomed the group to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to new members and guests.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

The notes of the meeting held on January 31 were agreed as a correct record.

Assisted Area Status

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) said the letter of endorsement from the BBLG had been submitted as agreed. Confirmation of the proposal, which includes 11 Blackpool wards, is expected in coming weeks.

3. Better Start Bid

Sarah Lambert (Blackpool Council) gave a presentation on a substantial bid that was being made to improve the life chances of disadvantaged babies and young children in Blackpool.

It was noted that the Lottery bid could be worth up to £50m and, if successful, would likely be the largest bid ever granted to Blackpool.

Sarah said that the project would focus on outcomes such as social and emotional development; communication and language; and diet and nutrition. It would be delivered across seven wards in Blackpool.

She said that Blackpool was competing with 14 other towns and cities for funding.

- A detailed copy of Sarah's presentation can be found at www.bblg.co.uk under the "Associated Reports" section.

4. Illuminasia – A New Attraction For Blackpool

David Gore (Illuminasia) gave a presentation on the new attraction that is currently under construction in the Winter Gardens in readiness for an Easter opening (Good Friday, April 18).

He said that Illuminasia amounted to a £3m private sector investment over three years and was set to become the world's largest indoor illuminations show.

It will comprise a number of illuminated zones including a "Blackpool experience" featuring a 13metre high Blackpool Tower. It also includes a study zone for school children within one of the zones.

David said that it was anticipated that Illuminasia would be open all year round and generate over 200,000 visits a year.

- A copy of the Illuminasia presentation can be found at www.bblg.co.uk under the "Associated Reports" section.

5. Blackpool Tourism Academy

Peter Legg (Blackpool Council) and Pam Roberts (Pleasure Beach) gave a presentation on the securing of £1m of Government funding via the Employer Ownership of Skills fund for the development of a Blackpool Tourism Academy.

Peter said this was an exciting new skills partnership for Blackpool's visitor economy that would address skills gaps in the year-round and seasonal workforce of the founding academy employers and within a wider cross section of businesses in the visitor economy.

The founding partners include: Blackpool Pleasure Beach (as lead bidder); Merlin Entertainments; Sandcastle Waterpark; Cuerden Leisure; Blackpool Zoo; Blackpool Transport Services; Blackpool Council and Blackpool & The Fylde College.

The Academy will seek to pioneer the design and testing of a new tourism apprenticeship framework and enable Blackpool to take steps to become a WorldHost destination (the customer service accreditation used in London 2012).

The funding is available over a three-year period.

- A copy of the full Tourism Academy presentation can be found at www.bblg.co.uk under the “Associated Reports” section.

6. **Business Partnerships Report**

Philip Welsh reported on a number of items in his report:

Talbot Gateway Update

It was noted that the opening of the new Sainsbury's store had now gone back to the end of July.

PW suggested that there may be an opportunity to hold the next BBLG meeting (at the end of May) in the new Bickerstaffe House council offices. He said he would explore this option and confirm well ahead of the meeting date.

2014 Tourism Season Launch

The VisitBlackpool tourism season launch for 2014 is to be held in the Derham Room at the Winter Gardens at 10am on Wednesday 2 April. Any members of the BBLG who wish to attend are welcome to do so.

Bathing Waters

It was noted that no further progress had been made to date in getting The Sunday Times to correct/apologise for the misleading article relating to the closure of beaches in Blackpool.

Boarded Up Hotels

Philip Welsh said that discussions were underway about how best to deal with the various boarded up hotels on Blackpool seafront, particularly at the south end. He said that the Council's options included enforcement (to get the frontages maintained to a decent standard) and possible screening of the frontages.

He said there might also be some benefit in the businesses in that area exerting some “peer pressure” to persuade the owners to do something about the condition of the properties. He said he would discuss this separately with Claire Smith from Stay Blackpool.

BlackpoolUnlimited.com

Noted that the new look site (developed by Happy Creative) was now live. A more detailed presentation on the facilities/services offered to businesses to be given at the May meeting.

Shale Gas Supply Conference

Philip Welsh drew the meeting's attention to a shale gas supply conference to be held at the Winter Gardens on April 24. Any businesses wishing to attend should register in the first instance by contacting Rob Green – email: rob@bfwedc.co.uk

Requests for Private Sector Support

It was noted that there were a number of requests for private sector support including:

- The Property Scene Charity Ball to be held at the De Vere on July 25
- The Variety Ball to be staged at The Hilton on May 9
- Illuminations Banquet and Ball to be held at The Imperial on April 23.

Full details of all of these events can be found in the Partnerships Report for March on the www.bblq.co.uk website

7. **Any Other Business**

Superfast Lancashire Event: Tony Morgan provided details of a free business support event to be staged at the De Vere Heron's Reach, Blackpool, on May 22. He said the main aim was to help eligible businesses understand the power and potential of the new fast fibre network being rolled out across Lancashire.

Sessions include a technology futurologist from BT; social media; using the web to save time and money. The keynote speech will be made by Kirsty Henshaw, a local entrepreneur who made a huge impression on TV's Dragon's Den.

Ticket details can be found at www.superfastlancashire.com

Progress Recruitment: Deborah Parker gave a brief presentation on the work that had been undertaken by Progress since its inception in terms of supporting differently abled people into employment. It was noted that Progress was to cease trading on March 31.

On behalf of the group, Martin Long (chair) thanked Deborah and her team for the work that they had done over the years.

Deborah said that Progress was now working with the Public Health team at Blackpool Council to ensure a smooth handover of the Health Works Award and the Healthier Catering Award, which will be launched later this year.

Tribute to Richard De Vere: Martin Heywood (Viva) confirmed that a tribute to the illusionist, Richard De Vere, who died suddenly while on holiday in Thailand was being staged at Viva later that day. All businesses invited to attend.

8. **Date and time of next meeting**

Next meeting scheduled for **7.45am for 8.30am, Friday 30th May**. The meeting will be held in Blackpool town centre - venue and parking arrangements to be confirmed.