



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 AT PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthens	Alison Gilmore	Imperial
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design/Wyred Up	Michael Williams, Anthony Williams	Winter Gardens
Philip Owen	Barclays	Margaret Wilson	Supported Moves
Nicola Atanassova	Visit Blackpool	Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla
David Hardy	Champion Group	Lindsay Campbell	Rowleys
Peter Rawlings	Tower Employment Services	Graham Wood	WEC Group
Caryn Steele	Balloonatics	Ian Fogg	Business In The Community
Susanne Johnson	Johnsons of Bond Street0	Jon McLeod	Blackpool Sixth
Chris Maine	DPA Packaging	Joe Bannister	Bishops Chartered Accountants
Tony Morgan	Superfast Lancashire	Kevin Bambury, Mike Buck	Pixel Work Design
Lawrence McBurney, Alistair Baines	Cassidy & Ashton	Paul Farrell	PHX Training
Philip Helm	Tyson Construction	Mark Hickey	Hounds Hill
Gary Smith	A4e	Michelle Smith	Blackpool Carers
Bev Robinson	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Ian Collins	Sainsburys
Nick Taylor	Hilton Hotel	Mick Grewcock	Burbage Group
Stuart Livesey	Consultant	Paula Davies	The Wave
Simon Booth	Astute Motoring	Hugh Evans	Chamber of Commerce
Ashley Dribben, Mike Collins	Metcalf Estate Agents/Auctioneers	Andy Dobson	Atlas Sailing
Paul Linderman	The Berkeley	Barry Howard	McDonalds UK
Vito Cinardi	Litigation Solutions	Martin Booker, Steve Curwood	Fleetwood Town FC
Annie Ogilvy	Blackpool Transport Services	Paul Crossley	Kenrick and Co
Carmen Conquer, Helen Atkinson	Aspired Futures	Jonathan Gray	Pleasure Beach
Philip Crowther	Helms Briscoe	Yusuf Musa	Winning Pitch
Chris Hibbert	Henco	Jane Kelly	Sandcastle Waterpark
John Keen	RKMS	Michelle Jackson	Jacksons Coaches
Damian Broughton	Danbro	David Clewes, Susie Gallagher	Store It
Neil Foulkes	HSBC	Mark Yates	Brooks Collectables
Gerry Lynch	Gem Associates	Tracy Hargreaves	Write Angle PR
Clare Taylor	Duxbury Commercial	Gwen Hunt, Craig Shaw	Colossal Training
Elliott Davies-Evans	De Craft Show	Claire Smith	Number One Hotels
Mike Hardaker	Moore and Smalley	Damien Gibbs	Butson Blofeld
Shirley Hunt	Cranstone Hotel	Sean Egan	DES Electricals
Ruth Patton	Pattons Community	Debbie Chinn	Enterprise For All
John Barnett	Starream/The Wave	Rob Knighton	Eclipse
Andy Fraser	Blackpool Granite	Sean Crofts	Premiere Recruitment
Steve Gill, Graham Arnold	Fylde Promotional Merchandise	Erica Crompton	Big Foot Events
Cassandra Troughton, Danny Thompson	Heart FM	Sean Gibbs	Harrison Drury
John Woodman	Blackpool FC	Jim Firth	Genting Casino
Mark Porter, Chris Sewell	Longfellows		
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Philip Welsh, Peter Legg, David Slater, Matt Edwards	Blackpool Council	Julie Whalley, Dave Brennan	Blackpool Guidance Community Network
APOLOGIES			
David Jones	Thirty 30 Media	Colin Johnston	Grand Theatre
Sue Kendrick	Blackpool Airport	David Houston	Trinity Hospice
Coral Horn	Pink Link	Justin Allitt	Allitt Property Management
Jonathan Cropper	Kingswood Supplies	Anne Catterton	Common Purpose
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs and Graphics	Neil Sutch	RBS
Nigel Seddon	The Elgin	Dale Lawrenson	Natwest
Roger Mellor, Andrew Jackson	Glasdon	Sarah Rhodes	Rhodes Media
David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure	Pam Swain	BADN
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council	Doug Garrett	Close Link
Karen Lambert, Simon Brooke	Happy Creative	Nick Bell	Tyson Construction
David Cam	Consultant	Paul Friday	Future Focus Energy
Darren Webster	Blackpool Zoo	Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co
David Buck	City Wing	Paul Wilcock	Montpelier
Rob Walker	Yes magazine	Gary Iddon	Virgin Trains

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Long welcomed the group to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to new members and guests. He apologised that Paul Maynard, MP, was unable to attend the meeting due to a last-minute recall of Parliament. He said that the agenda had been revised to accommodate additional speakers.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

The notes of the meeting held on July 25 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Blackpool Careers Options Event

Julie Whalley (Blackpool Guidance Community Network) gave a presentation on the Blackpool Careers Options Event “Your Future, Your Choice” to be staged at the Pleasure Beach on January 27 and 28, 2015.

Around 1500 students, engaged in planning for their futures, will visit over the two days and there will be an open invitation to all young people (14-25) to visit in the evening.

The key aim is to ensure young people understand the link between success in school and future careers, and the importance of developing key employability skills valued by employers and educational institutions alike.

It will provide guidance on potential employment sectors and their related careers, and promote the importance of personal skills and attributes, alongside formal qualifications, in an increasingly competitive job market.

To see how this event can support the young people of Blackpool and the surrounding area, you can view the video of this year’s event on <https://vimeo.com/76869668>

Julie said there was an opportunity for businesses to participate in the event. If you are interested in doing so or in advertising in the accompanying brochure, please email: whalleyjulie@btinternet.com

If you are interested in making further links with schools, contact dave.brennand@blackpool.gov.uk

✚ **Note:** The full presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under “Reports/Publications”

4. Radio Victoria

Hugh Evans (Chamber of Commerce) gave a briefing on a proposed community radio station for Blackpool. He said that Radio Victoria, which started out as a hospital radio station, was one of 200 community licences approved by Ofcom.

He said there was a commercial element to the proposed station, but said it was in the main a community-based social enterprise focusing on key local issues and run by volunteer presenters.

Hugh said that a sum of around £60k per annum was needed each year to meet running costs. He said that businesses could offer support by:

- Becoming trustees (a chairperson is also required)
- Helping with equipment
- Offering a venue to host the station and its volunteer team

Any business interested in helping the venture should contact Hugh at:
hughe@lancschamber.co.uk

5. **Blackpool To London Rail Services**

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) gave an update on the reinstatement of direct rail services between Blackpool North and London from December 15.

He said that Gary Iddon (Virgin Trains) had hoped to get to the meeting but was unable to do so because of other commitments.

Gary had asked for thanks to be passed on to the BBLG for their support during the lobbying process and had also urged them to support the new service when it is launched.

PW said the Monday to Friday service did lend itself to business usage, with the outward service leaving Blackpool at 5.25am (arriving London at 8.34am) and the return leaving London at 16.33pm, arriving in Blackpool at 19.31pm.

He said that Virgin was planning a high-profile PR launch for the service on December 15. In the meantime, discussions were being held with Virgin as to how the service might also be packaged and promoted by leisure and conference visitors to Blackpool.

It was noted that the electrification of the Blackpool to Preston line was continuing.

6. **Business In The Community**

Ian Fogg, Place Co-ordinator for Blackpool for Business In The Community, gave a presentation on how the organisation is working with business to secure a fairer society.

He said that business involvement in community activity can include:

- Mentoring young entrepreneurs
- Planning meaningful work experience opportunities
- Team volunteering projects
- Sharing skills and knowledge for the benefit of the community

Business benefits from this sort of involvement can include:

- Leadership development for individuals
- Coaching/mentoring
- Project management skills
- Team working/interpersonal skills
- Employee engagement
- Marketing/PR/brand reputation

He also focused on the potential for business people to become trustees of registered charities in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre. He urged BBLG members to consider this possibility and to promote the opportunity across their businesses.

Ian said that BITC would be hosting “more information” events over coming weeks. Further details to be distributed to the BBLG when they are available. In the meantime, anyone interested in finding out more about being a trustee or working in other ways with BITC, can contact Ian at ian.fogg@bitcconnect.org

🚩 **Note:** The full presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under “Reports/Publications”

7. Business Partnerships Report

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting. He brought the following items to the attention of the meeting:

Return Of Strictly

The BBC show will return to the Tower Ballroom on Saturday 15 November with the North West broadcast for the Children In Need telethon being hosted from the Tower Circus on the previous evening. He said that this would result in two nights of high-profile PR for the resort.

Mamma Mia!

The show had ended on Sunday 14 September with a final-performance audience in excess of 2,000 people. He said the show production team had been extremely grateful about the way in which the business community had embraced and promoted the show during its 12 week run.

World Fireworks

It was noted that there had been some trouble caused by gangs of youths on the previous week's World Fireworks event on the Promenade. PW said that there had been extensive discussions with police since then and a "proportionate" police presence would be in place for the final night's event on Friday 26 September.

Let It Be

PW drew the group's attention to a discount offer for the West End production, Let It Be, which opens at the Opera House for two weeks on Tuesday 30 September.

BIBA Winners

PW said that Blackpool had been strongly represented at the previous week's Be Inspired Business Awards in Blackpool with lighting design company, Chelsom, winning two awards and Blackpool Zoo being named as Leisure Business Of The Year.

Requests for Private Sector Support

PW asked the businesses to note the requests for private sector support and particularly the Macmillan Coffee Morning event that was being held that same morning at the Tower Ballroom.

8. Any Other Business

Yeadon Way Closure

Matt Edwards (Blackpool Council) gave a brief update on the forthcoming closure of Yeadon Way for extensive repair work. He said the closure was now scheduled for November 10 (the day after the Illuminations are switched off) until March 29, 2015 (the week prior to Easter).

He said that part of the negotiation with contractors was over whether the work could be completed ahead of this schedule to minimise any impact on the resort.

He said that detailed information on diversions was now being put together and this would be distributed to businesses in both leaflet and electronic format in early October. In addition, the BBLG would receive regular updates on progress.

Illuminations Sponsored Walk/Switch Off Party

Shirley Hunt (Cranstone Hotel) said that a sponsored walk in aid of the Illuminations was being staged by the Friends Of The Illuminations at 6.30pm on Friday 3 October, starting from the Comedy Carpet.

In addition, a “switch off” party was being held at The Sands Venue at 7.30pm on Sunday 9 November. Tickets cost £25 and include three course meal and entertainment.

Any businesses interested in attending or supporting either of the events should call 01253-476406 or email contactus@friendsofilluminations.org.uk

Alternative Christmas Parties

Members of the cast of the Tower Dungeon introduced a new style of Christmas office parties that will be held at the venue this year. Further details from kate.shane@merlinentertainments.biz

9. Date and time of next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for **7.45am for 8.30am, Friday 28th November at The Hilton, Blackpool**. Breakfast and car parking arrangements to be confirmed.