



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JULY 28, 2017 AT THE WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthen's	John Barnett	Stardream/Radio Wave
Ruth Eastwood, Colin Johnston	Grand Theatre	Bev Robinson, Claire Jameson	Blackpool & The Fylde College
Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Sarah Mortimer	Camerados
Louise Logan	Career Ready	Kerry Higginson	GP Strategies Training
Kristen Durose	Red Star Wealth	Jon Rhodes	Rhodes Media
Mike Lovell, William Wright	Cheetham Jackson	Greg Myerscough	RBS
Shan Dassanaik, Lee Bloomberg	Leith Planning	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Paul Heywood	Pink Condor	Cassie Fairclough	Global
Tom Mercer	Handelsbanken	Shirley Williams, Dan Scott	PHX Training
Mike Hardaker	Moore & Smalley	David Worsfold	IAWIA
Ron Bell	Abbey Bell Consultants	Gilles Almond	Serion
Nigel Kigallon	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Catherine Stringer	Chamber of Commerce
Kristina Szigeti	Happy Creative	Richard Champion	Property Investment Network
Mark Croasdale	Whitehead & Howarth	Mark Fitzgerald	Sainsbury's
Jane Hugo	Street Life	Aneesa McGladdery	Hilton
Jane Cole	Blackpool Transport	David Hardy	Champion Accountants
Geoff Mason	Chamber of Commerce	Tony Carr	Social Enterprise Solutions
Michael Williams	Winter Gardens	Philip Holt	Disability Go
Philip Owen	Consultant	Paul Hardy	Napthens
Craig Corrin	Marks & Spencer	Norry Ascroft	Youth Potential/Entertainer
Chris Hibbert	Henco	Phil McVan	Carbon Bit
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics	Michelle Smith, Sian Howarth	Blackpool Carers
Tracey Clarke	Toyland	Deborah Terras	UR Potential
Nicola Spencer	M&S Outlet, Freeport	Richard Burnett, Greg Goodall	AWOL TV
Janet Atkins	Trinity Hospice	Nichola Howard	Launch Events N-W
Simon Smith	RBS	Vicki Ivanov, Shelli	Candy House
Denise Marsden, Paula Nuttall	Fylde Recruitment Services	James Evans	High Level Specialists
Bev Wood	BWD Design	David McGing	Ibis
John & Jaki Armstrong	Majestic N-W	Ashley Moore	Event Assembly
Helen Livesey, Carmen Parkinson	The Business Clinic	Geoff Moore	Canberra Hotel
Lisa Rooney	Job Centre Plus	Rob Graham	Concept Solutions
Barrie Thompson, My Liu	China-UK Business Centre	Tony Mercer	Public Health England
David Cam	Under Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster	Annermarie Ward	Faces and Voices of Recovery UK
Tom Metcalf	Little Touches	Carol Houston	Horizon
Michael Muschamp	Rushtons Accountants	Paul Friday, Andy Green	Future Focus Energy
Tony Raynor	Abbey Telecom	Alan Reid	Disability First
Steve Burns	ThinkForward	Mark Smith	Accountancy Services/Yes Hotels
Helen Atkinson, Sue Williams	Aspired Futures	Paul Galley	Winter Gardens
Elaine Smith	Friends of Stanley Park/Civic Trust	Shirley Hunt	Cranstone Hotel
Natalie Dubois	Revolution		
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Philip Welsh, Peter Legg	Blackpool Council	Nick Gerrard, David Slater	Blackpool Council
Pauline Wigglesworth, Tom Molyneux	Blackpool Council	Rob Latham	Blackpool Council
APOLOGIES			
Coral Horn	Pink Link	Anne Catterson	Common Purpose
David Hoyle	Happy Days Childcare	Barry Howard	McDonald's UK
Nicola Alanassova	VisitBlackpool	Peter Bennett	Assess, Design, Develop
Karen McDonald	Blackpool Transport	Paul Crossley	Kenrick & Co
Jill Gray, Tina Cooper	Blackpool Sixth	Craig Evans	Voiteq
John Salisbury	RBS	Tom Willcox	Willcox PR
Chris Maine	DPA Packaging	Mick Grewcock	Burbage Holiday Group
Fiona Reid	Ascroft Whiteside	Neil Jack	Blackpool Council
Helen and Damian Broughton	Danbro	John Child	Sandcastle Waterpark
Peter Lui	Luxsun/Chinese Community Association	Chris Calvert	Rushton's Accountants
Frank Heald	Voiteq	Tom Nelder	Choice Hotels
Roger Mellor, Andrew Jackson	Glasdon	Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design
Lindsay Campbell, Paul Rowley	Campbell & Rowley	Robert Morland	Barclays
Jonathan Barnes	Santander	Andrew Wareing	Voucher Packs
Samantha Bell, Ashley Doherty	Skool Of Street	Alison Gilmore	Imperial Hotel
Julie Holland	Viva	Steve Gill	Fylde Promotional Merchandise
Peter Jefferson	Visionistic	Colin Taylor	Lights Ambassador
Andrew Heydeleman	Inspira	Michael Pickhall	Pinpoint Management Consultants
Wendy Harrison	Café Fresch	Richard Lefton	The Lefton Group
Rachel Riches	The Village, Heron's Reach		

1. Welcome and apologies

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

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

Minutes noted, no matters arising.

3. Winter Gardens Update

Michael Williams (Winter Gardens) showed a short film setting out the breadth programming of the Winter Gardens including shows, events, conferences and exhibitions. He also gave an insight into the growth of the new Blackpool Dance Festival in China and the early success of securing the GMB conference in 2019 in the planned new conference centre.

4. Blackpool Carers

Sian Howarth (Blackpool Carers Centre) gave a presentation on the Work Experience Project being run by the centre. She outlined the benefits to both students and employers. It was noted that a number of BBLG members including Blackpool Transport, Danbro, The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool Council and Sandcastle Waterpark were already supporting the scheme. To get involved, email helen.hay@blackpoolcarers.org

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

5. Disabled Go

Philip Holt (Disabled Go) gave the group an insight into the work his organisation undertakes to promote accessible tourism.

He said that Disabled Go was originally set up to improve the lives of disabled people by promoting independence and choice. He said that the Disabled Go website attracted around 100,000 users every month, with the majority searching for hotels and attractions.

He then gave the group a demonstration of the website, focusing on some of the Blackpool pages. He drew attention to the Sandcastle as an exemplar of how to produce an access guide.

He encouraged all hotels and attractions in the resort to take advantage of the site if they were not already doing so. For further information, email Philip.holt@disabledgo.com

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

6. Recovery Walk Event

Annemarie Ward (Faces & Voices of Recovery UK) and Tony Mercer (Public Health England) gave a joint presentation on the next UK Recovery Walk which is being staged in Blackpool from noon on September 9.

It was noted that the walk was likely to attract several thousand participants. It is aimed at:

- Raising the awareness of misuse and recovery from addiction
- Celebrating the achievements of individuals in recovery
- Acknowledging the work of prevention, treatment and recovery support services

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

7. **Headstart Programme**

Pauline Wigglesworth and Tom Molyneux (Blackpool Council) gave a presentation on the Big Lottery-funded Headstart programme – a £10.5m scheme spanning five years and aimed at building resilience among 10 to 16-year-olds in Blackpool.

Pauline explained that there were opportunities for businesses to support the programme by:

- Sharing expertise
- Providing work opportunities
- Offering support to young people
- Volunteering
- Recruiting others to support the resilience work

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

8. **Blackpool Business Survey**

David Slater (Business Growth Manager, Blackpool Council) gave a presentation on the summary findings of the business survey carried out in Blackpool. He said the survey had attracted more than 700 responses, focusing on issues such as drivers and barriers to growth; recruitment and skills; business support.

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

The summary findings will also be available on the www.blackpoolunlimited.com website in September.

9. **Business Partnerships Report**

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting. He highlighted the following items:

Destination Marketing

He showed the group two TV adverts running during the summer months – one running on ITV as part of the Blackpool Has It All campaign; the other an ad running on the Nickelodeon children's channels as part of VisitBlackpool's ongoing partnership with MTV and Nickelodeon.

He said that the partnership would run until 2019, with MTV helping to produce the annual Switch-On event and Nickelodeon running SLIMEFEST shows in resort. He said the 2017 SLIMEFEST shows, to be held at Pleasure Beach Arena over three days had virtually sold out.

Tower Top Vote

He invited businesses to cast their votes for Blackpool Tower in a national competition to find England's best "window with a view".

Blue Flag Survey

He invited businesses to take part in a survey that is being conducted by Keep Britain Tidy in relation to the award of a Blue Flag to South Beach.

Recruitment to Audit Committee

He advised the group that Blackpool Council would soon be advertising for an independent member of its Audit Committee. He said he would circulate the details after the meeting.

**10. Any Other Business
Create Construction**

Martin Long (chair) congratulated Paul Mathison on his company's recent success in being named as SME Of The Year in the North West Construction Industry Awards.

Blue Room

The chair also advised the group that Robert Wynne (West Coast Rock Café) had recently acquired the Stanley Arms/Blue Room pub and intended to re-open it as a micro-brewery.

Vote of Thanks

The chair thanked the Winter Gardens for hosting the event and also the speakers for their presentations.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30am for 8.30am on Friday 29 September at the Paradise Room, Blackpool Pleasure Beach.