



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2015, AT THE IMPERIALHOTEL, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair), Malcolm Ireland	Napthens	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design/Wyred Up	Carmen Conquer, Lorna Lightfoot	Aspired Futures
Daryl Platt	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Norry Ascroft	Entertainer/Consultant
Steve Pye	Addison Academy	Simon Brooke, John Filmer	Happy Creative
Belinda Shore	Santander	Ian McGawley	Sainsbury's
Martin Heywood	VIVA	Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics	Grace Bennett, Darren Maw	Vista Employer Services
Sean Gibbs	Harrison Drury	Joan Blackburn	Spire Healthcare
Stuart Livesey	Consultant	Kimberley Barrett-St. Vall, Anthony Fox	Napthens
Nicola Atanassova, Mandy Tythe-McCallum	VisitBlackpool	Neil Foulkes	HSBC
Mike Bell Smith	Ludlow Wealth Management	Paul Linderman	Berkeley Apartments
Amanda Elliott	Fleetwood Freeport	Jane Cole	Blackpool Transport Services
Susie Gallagher	Store It	John Salisbury	RBS
Cheryl Fairhurst	Carers' Trust	Yvonne Cooper, Anne Everingham	Job Centre Plus
Viv Cuthill	Collaborate Coaching	Steve Fairhurst	Zestisbest
John Salisbury	RBS	Jane Cole	Blackpool Transport Services
Martin Booker	Fleetwood Town FC	Wendy Harrison	Café Fresch
David Cam	Under-Sheriff for Lancashire	Shirley Hunt	Cranstone Hotel
Colin Johnston	Blackpool Grand Theatre	Sanjeev Maharaj, Adam Ray	Smart Point Advertising
Mark Smith	Capricorn Accountancy	Clare Taylor	Duxbury's Commercial
Sarah Lambert	Better Start	Stuart Mulrooney	Johnston Press
Philip Owen	Barclays	Jonathan Cropper	Kingswood Office Supplies
Tom Baldwin	Northern Security	Ian and Andrew Murray	O2
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose	Hugh Evans	Chamber of Commerce
Alex McIntyre	Property Scene	Louise Logan	Career Ready
Jim Firth	Genting Casino	Vicky Reynolds	Ashworth Treasure
Andy Higgins	The Mailing Room	Rebecca Murdoch	Total Finance
Peter Bennett	Assess Design	Paul Crossley	Kenrick & Co
James Evans, Carl Pixton	High Level Specialists	Michael Williams	Winter Gardens
Chris Maine	Direct Paper Agents	Susanne Johnson	Johnson's Of Bond S/F/SB
Suzie Barnes	Village Hotels	Paul, Karen Friday, Andrew Green	Future Focus Energy
Colin Taylor	Lights Ambassador	Paula Davies	The Wave
Julia Eastwood	Artisan Tiles	Paul Farquhar	Now2
Peter Jefferson	Visionistic	Jon Rhodes	Rhodes Media
Ian Mallam	Digitav	David Houston	Trinity Hospice
Nigel Kilgallon	Pleasure Beach	Belinda Betts	Museum For Blackpool
Paul Crouch, Mike Walton	AKS	Sarah Hepworth, Joel Chapman	BES
Jane Kelly	Sandcastle Waterpark	Vicki Ivanov	Candy House Entertainment
Sarah Mortimer	Addaction	Adam Leary	AECOM
Lindsay Campbell	Rowley's	Yusuf Musa	Winning Pitch
Nicola Spencer	M&S Outlet, Fleetwood	Deborah Brookes	People Plus
Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla Resources	Andy Charles	Business In the Community
Tim Fielding, Nick Stevenson	BBE Law	Joe Bullock	Whitbread
Tina Cooper, Natalie Dobson	Blackpool Sixth	Caryn and David Steele	Balloonatics
Michelle Riley	B&FC	Jon-Paul Jackson	Jackson's Coaches
Jackie Skeer	SESS Surveying	Deborah Terras, Linda Markey	UR Potential
Debbs Lancelott, Mark Hickey	HoundsHill	Paul Mathison	Create Construction
Amanda Reynolds	Marks & Spencer	David McGing	Ibis Styles
Jeff Smith, Scott Rogers	JSM Building Solutions	Mark Yates	Brooks Collectables
Erica Crompton	Big Foot Events		
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Philip Welsh, Peter Legg	Blackpool Council	Sam Coulstock	Springboard UK
APOLOGIES			
Charlotte Gili-Ross	Ribby Hall Village	Chris Hibbert	Henco
Eileen Ormand	Blackpool BID	Bev Robinson	Blackpool & The Fylde College
Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services	Stephen Bolton	Lancashire Business View
Lucy Hodge	Merlin Entertainments	Kristen Durose	Red Star Wealth
Lee-Anne Brooke	Marton Mere	Gerry Lynch	Gem Associates
Kila Redfean	Winter Gardens	Joan Nickson	Northern Rail
Nick Taylor	The Hilton	Justin Allitt	Allitt Estate Agency
Vito Cinardi	Litigation Solutions	Elaine Purves	Rossall School
Richard Lefton	Lefton Group	Paul Wilcock	Montpelier Group
Fiona Reid	Ascroft Whiteside	Graham Arnold, Steve Gill	Fylde Promotional Merchandise
Chris Taplin	Re-think Design	Tony Banks	Blackpool Promotions
Roger Mellor	Glasdon	Rob Green	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC
John Richmond	Delphi Medical	Philip Saunders	Natwest
Steve Hill	MENCAP	John Keen	RKMS
Darren Webster	Blackpool Zoo	Paul Hough	Think Creative
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council	David Hoyle	Happy Days Childcare
Bev Wood	BWD Design	Joe Boniface	Boniface Architects
Paul McCherry	Icloud 9	Dale Lawrenson	Natwest
Jeremy Smith	Lytham Coffee Co	Pam Swain	British Asscn of Dental Nurses
Kate Shane	Blackpool Tower	Rob Knighton	Eclipse
John Barnett	Stardream	Helen and Damian Broughton	Danbro
Lesley Heatley	Inenco	Joel Firth	Firth Associates
Tracy Hopkins	Blackpool Citizens Advice Bureau		

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Long (chair, Napthens) welcomed members and thanked The Imperial for hosting the meeting. He noted that the hotel was one of the most famous and historic hotels in the UK and, over the years, had welcomed many notable guests including the Queen, Charles Dickens, Winston Churchill and numerous other Prime Ministers.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

No issues to report.

3. Museum For Blackpool

Belinda Betts, Project Director for the Blackpool Museum Project, gave an update to the group.

She said the museum would be a celebration of Blackpool as the first seaside resort created for mass tourism in the world. The development, planned for the Horseshoe and Pavilion Theatre areas of the Winter Gardens would also:

- Anchor the development of Winter Gardens and generate greater daytime footfall
- Create a new, high-quality, distinctive, year-round cultural offer
- Reach non-traditional museum audiences and bring new higher spending visitors to Blackpool
- Develop local talent, aspirations and skills
- Contribute to wider socio-economic development and wellbeing
- Provide sensitive new use for Grade 2* listed building
- Form part of wider town centre development

Belinda said the full bid for Heritage Lottery funding would be submitted in the first half of next year. Subject to that being successful, the museum is scheduled to open around April 2018.

She said that businesses would be able to get involved in a number of ways such as:

- Content collection and support in developing learning programmes
- Being advocates for the project
- Fundraising help and sponsorship
- Becoming corporate members
- Visiting and bringing friends and family
- Booking and using the venue and facilities
- Supporting the team in developing and delivering innovative programmes and exhibitions

A copy of Belinda's full presentation can be viewed at www.bblq.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

4. **The Big Hospitality Conversation**

Sam Coulstock, Head of Special Projects and Business Relations Manager at The Springboard Charity, briefed the group on a national initiative aimed at showcasing hospitality as a great career choice for young people.

He said that The Big Hospitality Conversation was led by the British Hospitality Association and aimed to get rid of the misconception that hospitality jobs are low-skilled, low-paid and have no career progression.

He said the primary purpose of the initiative was to deliver 60,000 pledges from the hospitality sector by the end of 2016 comprising 20,000 new jobs for young people aged 16-24, 20,000 new apprenticeship places and 20,000 quality work placements.

Mr Coulstock said that a number of events had already taken place around the UK, resulting in over 46,000 pledges of action, and it was now hoped that an event could take place in Blackpool pre-Easter next year.

He said that he was seeking a venue that would provide room capacity for a minimum of 200 people for the Big Conversation event, and up to 500 for careers fair space. Mr Coulstock said he hoped that Blackpool's business leaders would support the event.

Further information to follow in due course.

In the meantime, a copy of the presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

A short film illustrating one of the events can be viewed here:
<http://www.bha.org.uk/bhconversation/>

5. **Better Start**

Sarah Lambert, Development Manager for Better Start, gave an update on the Better Start programme for Blackpool, which is now underway following a successful bid for £45m of Big Lottery funding over the next five years.

Sarah said that the project vision was to make a "generational shift", ensuring today's babies in Blackpool enjoy the early care and nurturing required for healthy development and school readiness.

Sarah also made reference to a "Sandgrown Card" which is being developed to give families discounts at various attractions and organisations across Blackpool. Any businesses wishing to participate in the scheme should contact Better Start on 01253-476789.

A copy of the presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

6. **Blackpool Car Parking Review**

Adam Leary, Associate Director of AECOM, briefed the group on a Strategic Car Parking Review that has been commissioned by Blackpool Council.

He said the purpose of the review as to ensure that car parking in Blackpool:

- Is fit for purpose to support economic growth of the visitor economy and the local business community
- Meets the needs of Blackpool residents
- Supports the implementation of the Blackpool Destination Management Plan

Adam said that the review would examine the loss of parking supply in some areas of the town in recent years; the highly seasonal demand for parking; and the infrastructure including outdated multi-storey car parks and the reliance on traditional pay and display machines.

He invited members of the Blackpool Business Leadership Group to put forward their views on parking by completing a short survey by the **October 16** deadline. This can be done at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G3XYF2Y>

A copy of Adam's presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations

7. **Business Tourism**

Mandy Tythe-McCallum (VisitBlackpool) briefed the group on the new Blackpool Conference & Meetings Guide that had just been published.

She urged the businesses and associations in the group to consider acting as "ambassadors" for business tourism in the resort, encouraging their own organisations, associates and suppliers to consider Blackpool as a destination for conferences and meetings.

Mandy said that her team could help put together proposals for one or more venues, help with accommodation, subvention (subject to numbers and length of stay) and put together all relevant information to present to organisers.

For further information on how to get involved as an ambassador, email: Mandy@visitblackpool.com

The online version of the guide can be viewed here: http://issuu.com/visitblackpool/docs/conference_guide_2016_web/1

8. **Partnerships Report**

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting.

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

LightPool Projection Show

This had commenced on September 7, with shows now taking place on the front of the Tower building each night. He said that a second film was now in production and the intention was to launch it just before the start of the October half term. He encouraged members of the group to view the attraction as it did add a very different dimension to the traditional Illuminations.

Blackpool Tramway Anniversary

Jane Cole (Blackpool Transport Services) gave the group an update on the various activities taking place over the weekend of September 26/27 to mark the 130th anniversary of the Blackpool and Fleetwood tramway.

Jimmy Armfield Birthday Event

PW said he had been asked to bring to the group's attention, a celebration dinner that is being held to mark Jimmy Armfield's 80th birthday. He said the event would be held at the Tower Ballroom on the evening of Thursday 22 October. Tickets, which include a three-course dinner, are on sale at £35 each. For details contact andy.higgins@themailingroom.com

9. **Any Other Business**

No other items of business. Martin Long thanked the various speakers.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Scheduled for 7.45am for 8.30am on Friday 27 November at The Hilton, Blackpool.
Further joining instructions to follow.