



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 29, 2016, AT THE VILLAGE HOTEL, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthens	Peter Bennett	Assess, Design, Develop
Angelique Gonzales, Craig Parker	Ibis Styles	Paul and Karen Friday	Future Focus Energy
Jonathan Barnes	Santander	Steven Tew	Tew Estate Agents
Sarah Mortimer	Fulfilling Lives	John and Jaki Armstrong	Majestic NW
Louise Logan	Career Ready	Mike Hardaker	Moore and Smalley
Caroline Scholz	Blue Skies	Vicky Reynolds	Ashworth Treasure
Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Carmen Conquer, Helen Atkinson	Aspired Futures
Charlotte Gilli-Ross	Ribby Village	Sean Gibbs, David Edwards	Harrison Drury
Rob Green	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC	Ruth Patton	Patton's Community
Tony Raynor	Abbey Telecom	Robin Ross	Sand, Sea and Spray
Yvonne Cooper, Anne Everingham	Jobcentreplus	Annie Ogilvie, Karen McDonald	Blackpool Transport Services
Paul Wilcock	Montpelier Group	Rachel Riches, Iain Grant	The Village
Stephen Bolton	Lancashire Business View	David Jones	Thirty30Media
Deborah Brookes	People Plus	Roxanne Buckley	Napthens
Colin Taylor	Illuminations Ambassador	Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design/Wyred Up
Grace Bennett	Vista Online	Shaun Bennett	Links Signs and Graphics
Peter Mulder	Chamber of Commerce	Peter Jefferson	Visionistic
Daryl Platt	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Philip Helm	Tyson Construction
Joan Blackburn, Tracey Snape	Spire Healthcare	Anne Catterson	Common Purpose
Chris Maine, Andrew Hall	DPA Packaging	Nick Taylor, Tom Cobden	Hilton Hotel
Adam Taylor	Duxbury Commercial	Rebecca Murdoch	Total Finance
Dawn Pepper	Genting Casino	Claire Smith	Number One Hotels
Jill Gray, Tina Cooper	Blackpool Sixth	Dale Lawrenson, Simon Smith	NatWest
Damien Gibbs	Parkinson Commercial	James Evans, Carl Pixton	High Level Specialists
Nicola Atanassova, Mandy Tythe-McCallum	VisitBlackpool	Steve Gill, Graham Arnold	Fylde Promotional Merchandise
Paul Linderman	Berkeley Apartments	Norry Ascroft	Entertainer/Consultant
Jon Magee, Amanda Elliott	Freeport Fleetwood	Rosey Rihani	RR Legal
David Hirst	Creative Arts & Futures	David McDonald	World Travel Lounge
Colin Johnston	Blackpool Grand Theatre	Andrew Wareing, Andy Atkinson	Voucher Packs
Stuart Mulrooney	Johnston Press	Simon Coxhill	Blackpool Power Tools
Alex McIntyre	Property Scene	Sarah and Jon Rhodes	Rhodes Media
Darren Webster	Blackpool Zoo	Paula Davies	The Wave
John Salisbury	RBS	Dave Riche	LightPool Business Development
Katie Upton, Dan Rogan	Jobs, Friends and Houses	Paul Williamson	Your Photographic Solutions
Simon Brooke, John Filmer	Happy Creative	Catherine Best	Best At Support Solutions
Stephanie Smith	Sandcastle Waterpark	Lawrence McBurney	Cassidy & Ashton
Vito Cinardi	Litigation Solutions	John Barnett	The Wave
Andrew Sowden	Nedwos	Jeff Smith	JSM Building Solutions
Lindsay Campbell, Heather Kennedy	Rowleys	Caryn and David Steele	Balloonatics
David Treece-Birch	St Annes Town Council	Sanjeev Maharaj	Smart Point Advertising
Joe Bullock	Whitbread	Pauline Lai	The Mandarin
Phillip Parramore	8 Business Networking	Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co
Steve Pye	Health and Safety TV	Andrew Jackson	Glasdon
David Galvin	Blackpool Housing Co	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Alan Cavill, Philip Welsh	Blackpool Council	Amanda Hatton	Blackpool Council
Polly Hamilton, David Slater	Blackpool Council		
Paul Grocott, Jeremy Walker	Blackpool Council	Blackpool Sixth Students	
APOLOGIES			
Debbs Lancelott	Hounds Hill	Deborah Terras	UR Potential
Philip Owen	Barclays	Nicola Spencer	M&S Outlet
Richard Lefton	The Lefton Group	Justin Allitt	Allitt Estate Agency
Bev Wood	BWD Design	Robert Owen	Blackpool Pleasure Beach
John Child	Sandcastle Waterpark	Chris Hibbert	Henco
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council	Elaine Smith	Civic Trust
Victoria Ivanov	Candy House	Steve Whitehouse	FTS
Kristen Durose	Red Star Wealth	Coral Horn	Pink Link
Damian Broughton	Danbro	David Houston	Trinity
Phil Bonell	Training Works	Michael Williams, Kila Redfearn	Winter Gardens
Philip Crowther	Helms Briscoe	Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services
David Cam	Consultant	Susanna Boccaccio	Brilliant Trees Media
Pam Swain	British Association of Dental Nurses	Viv Cuthill	Collaborate Coaching
John Richmond	Delphi Medical	Paul Mathison	Create Construction
Michelle Smith	Carers Trust Fylde Coast	Joel Firth	Firth Associates
Susanne Johnson	Johnsons of Bond Street		

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Long (chair, Napthens) welcomed members and thanked The Village Hotel for hosting the meeting. He also welcomed some students from the Blackpool Sixth Careers Academy who were attending the meeting as observers.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

No issues to report.

3. Corporate Parenting – Business Support

Amanda Hatton (Blackpool Council Children's Services) introduced two young people from the authority's corporate parenting programme to talk about their life experiences and to ask businesses to support young people from similar backgrounds in raising aspirations and securing employment opportunities.

They said that this could be done in various ways including mentoring, providing work placements, and by providing jobs where possible.

Following the presentations, Amanda circulated pledge forms to businesses encouraging them to engage with young people who have been in the care of the local authority.

Further details on corporate parenting can be obtained from amanda.hatton@blackpool.gov.uk

4. Blackpool Tramway Extension

Paul Grocott (consultant working on behalf of Blackpool Transport) gave a presentation on the proposed extension of the tramway from Talbot Square, Blackpool, to a new interchange at Blackpool North Station.

He said that the plan allowed for the tramlines to go through the centre of Talbot Road (with trams in both directions) to provide a direct link from the rail network. He said that the plan would encourage use of public transport, provide direct links from Blackpool North to the whole of Blackpool Promenade and also stimulate growth in the town centre.

He set out a proposed timetable, with completion by 2019 subject to procurement and planning processes.

Mr Grocott said that public and business consultation was key to the entire project. Martin Long (chair of the BBLG) asked for a show of support from the attendees so that a letter of support could be provided to the project board. The project was unanimously supported in a show of hands.

A full copy of the presentation can be found on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Publications.

5. Blackpool Housing Co

David Galvin, Managing Director of the new Blackpool Housing Company, gave a presentation on the aims and objectives of the company.

He said it was wholly owned by Blackpool Council, and had been established in order to tackle the market failure issues in parts of the town, particularly in relation to poor quality private rented accommodation. Primary objectives include:

- To acquire, convert and renovate property into high quality homes to rent.
- Provide a full lettings and management service (My Blackpool Home).
- Improve standards of accommodation and management.

He gave the example of two large hotels on Albert Road, one of which was derelict, the other trading as a “party house”. He said the plan was to acquire these and convert into 20 high-specification apartments for private rental.

He said the housing company was based on a long-term intervention model, with its initial investment and loan facility of £27m secured through the Lancashire Growth Deal.

A full copy of the presentation can be found on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Publications.

6. Keep Blackpool Tidy

Richard McIlwain (Keep Britain Tidy) gave a presentation on a plan to turn Blackpool into the cleanest coastal resort in the country by 2020.

He said that litter was a huge problem across the UK, costing local authorities over £700m a year in street cleansing.

He said that the Blackpool project was an ambitious one, but the recent successful results in bathing water quality tests showed what could be achieved through a concerted effort.

He said that business had a crucial role to play in the initiative by:

- Being represented on a planned partnership
- Giving its views on the issue and the ambition to make Blackpool the cleanest coastal destination in the UK
- Collecting employee views
- Signing a voluntary pledge, supporting the aims of the initiative

A copy of the business pledge form is contained within Richard’s full presentation which can be found on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Publications. If you wish to sign the voluntary pledge, please return to: Richard.McIlwain@keepbritaintidy.org

7. Business In The Community

Andy Charles (Business In The Community) gave an introductory presentation on the work he will be undertaking in Blackpool over the coming year.

He said that Business In The Community is part of the Prince’s Responsible Business Network with a key aim of tackling issues that are essential to creating a fairer society and more sustainable future for communities.

He said that BITC has a particular focus on Blackpool because of the high levels of deprivation.

A copy of Andy’s presentation (including his contact details) can be found on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Publications.

8. Business Partnerships Report

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting. He drew the group’s attention to the following items:

2016 Season Launch Event

Scheduled for the morning of Tuesday 15 March at Blackpool Pleasure Beach. Invitations to be sent out over the next few weeks.

Illuminations Sponsorship Night

Launch of the new business sponsorship brochure to be held at the Beach House Bar/Restaurant at 5.30pm on Thursday 4 February, hosted by designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen and the new Illuminations business development manager, Dave Riche. Any business wanting further information about opportunities to support the 2016 illuminations, email david.riche@blackpool.gov.uk

Big Hospitality Conversation

PW said that a Blackpool event had now been organised as part of the Big Hospitality Conversation, a national initiative aimed at showcasing hospitality as a great career choice for young people.

The event will be held at the Winter Gardens between 9am and 4pm on Wednesday 8 June. Businesses in the tourism and hospitality sector are encouraged to register.

Rail Changes For Blackpool

A number of changes and improvements are planned for Blackpool following the appointment of Arriva Rail to deliver the resort's direct rail services. He said that Blackpool Council had arranged a provisional meeting with Arriva to discuss these changes and he said it might be useful if a presentation was arranged for a future meeting of the BBLG.

Combined Authority Consultation

PW drew the group's attention to a link to a consultation survey relating to a proposed Lancashire Combined Authority. He said the business community was being encouraged to express its views on the proposal.

BBC Spotlight On Blackpool

He also drew the group's attention to a link to a BBC programme, "What To Buy And Why" which had extensively featured the Illuminations, the Empress Ballroom and other parts of the resort in a very positive light.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Scheduled for 7.30am for 8.30am on **Friday 18 March** at Viva Showbar, Church Street/Promenade, Blackpool. Further details to follow, including parking arrangements. Note the earlier date in the month for this particular meeting – this is due to the Easter holiday.