



## BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

### NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MARCH 18, 2016, AT THE VIVA SHOWBAR, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
<b>ATTENDEES</b>			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthens	Alex Holt	Wyre Council
David McGing	Ibis Styles	Rachel Riches	Village Hotels
Dave Riche	LightPool	Lindsay Campbell	Rowley's
Andrew Hall, Chris Maine	DPA Packaging	Roger Mellor	Glasdon
Alex McIntyre	Property Scene	Tony Raynor	Abbey Telecom
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Patch/Wyred Up	Mick Grewcock	Burbage Holiday Group
Tim Forshaw	Arthur J Gallagher	Yvonne Cooper, Anne Everingham	DWP
Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services
David Hardy	Champion Accountants	Shirley Hunt	The Cranstone
Eileen Ormand	Town Centre BID	Samantha Bell, Ashley Doherty	Skool of Street
Ben Govier	Clear Hire	Duncan Hodgson	LeftCoast
Louise Logan	Career Ready/World Travel Lounge	Chris Hibbert	Henco
Pete Mulder, Hayley Topselvi	Chamber of Commerce	Adam Taylor	Duxbury Commercial
Rosey Rihani	RR Legal	Emma Kendall	Tower Recruitment Services
Andrew Mellor	St Nicholas Primary	Cassie Troughton	Global Radio
Rob Green, Mark Gillingham	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC	Peter Wood, Lisa Robbins	Lakeview Rest Homes
Ron Bell	Colossal Group	John Salisbury	RBS
John Child	Sandcastle Waterpark	Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla Resources
Jill Gray, Tina Cooper	Blackpool Sixth	Claire Smith	Number One Hotels
David Cam	Under Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster	Lee Burrell	Blackpool Housing Co
Grace Bennett	Vista Online	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Vito Cinardi	Litigation Solutions	Tracey Snape	Spire Healthcare
Nicola Spencer	M&S Outlet, Freeport	John and Danielle Barnett	Stardream
Dale Lawrenson, Simon Smith	Natwest	Colin Taylor	Blackpool Ambassador
Vicki Ivanov	Candy House	Robert Wynne	West Coast
David Houston	Trinity Hospice	Dawn Pepper	Genting Casino
Philip Owen	Barclays	Michael Cuddy	Michael Cuddy Chartered Surveyors
Susanne Johnson	Johnsons Emporium/FSB	Helen Lucking, Sophie Coane	Napthens
Craig Corrin	Marks & Spencer	Michael Williams	Winter Gardens
Ian McGawley, Mark Fitzgerald	Sainsbury's	John Magee, Amanda Elliott	Freeport Fleetwood
Caryn and David Steele	Balloonatics	Norry Ascroft	Entertainer/Consultant
Tom Cobden	The Hilton	Bev Wood	BWD
Steve Hodgkins	Jobs, Friends and Houses	Jackie Skeer	SESS Surveying
Nigel Kilgallon	Pleasure Beach	Peter Lea	S Class Cars
Annie Ogilvie, Karen McDonald	Blackpool Transport	Phil Baron	Pentagull
Vicky Reynolds	Ashworth Treasure	Debbs Lancelott/Mark Hickey	Houndshill
Jeff Smith, Lyndsey Kaye	JSM Building Solutions	Carl Pixton	High Level Specialists
Elaine Smith	Civic Trust	Mark Smith, Tony Urmston	Yes Hotels
David Jones	Thirty30 Media	Carley Harrison	Santander
Matthew Burrow	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals	Barry Howard	McDonalds
Martin Heywood	Viva!		
<b>OBSERVERS/GUESTS</b>			
Philip Welsh, Peter Legg	Blackpool Council	Sally Shaw	Blackpool Council
Skool Of Street Members			
<b>APOLOGIES</b>			
Bev Robinson	Blackpool and the Fylde College	Pam Swain	British Asscn of Dental Nurses
Steve Whitehouse	Future Technology Services	Rebecca Murdoch	Total Finance
Elaine Purves	Rossall School	Paul Wilcock	Montpelier Accountants
Peter Jefferson	Visionistic	Deborah Terras	UR Potential
Sanjeev Maharaj	Smart Point Advertising	John Richmond	Delphi Medical
Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co	Anne Catterson	Common Purpose
Pauline Lai	Mandarin	Carmen Conquer	Aspired Futures
David Hirst	Creative Arts and Futures	Katherine O'Connor	BIS North West
Richard Lefton	Lefton Group	Fiona Reid	Ascroft Whiteside
Steve Swallow	Portal Security	John Keen	RKMS
Ruth Patton	Patton's Community	Neil Jack	Blackpool Council
Karen Lambert	Happy Creative	Stephen Bolton	Lancashire Business View
Caroline Scholz	Blue Skies Hospitals Fund	Andrew Wareing	Voucher Packs
Justin Allitt	Allitt Estate Agency	Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics
Coral Horn	Pink Link	Phil Bonell	Training Works
Peter Bennett	Assess, Design, Develop	Sarah and Jon Rhodes	Rhodes Media
John and Jaki Armstrong	Majestic N-W		

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Martin Long (chair, Napthens) welcomed members and thanked Viva for hosting the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising**

No issues to report.

**3. Skool Of Street**

Samantha Bell and Ashley Doherty gave a presentation on the Skool of Street, a Blackpool-based enterprise that was established in 2013, offering workshops in urban projects for young people aged 7-19.

Samantha said the Skool of Street obtained funding to offer free services, teaching young people in hip-hop culture including dance, music production, beat-boxing, graffiti, physical theatre and DJ skills.

They showed a short video about the group and said they were looking for private sector support in various forms, including any offers of sponsorship, raffle spaces and rehearsal space.

Two young people – one from Blackpool Sixth, the other from Blackpool & The Fylde College, then gave a short performance of dance and beat-boxing.

The video shown at the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9objazqriTk>

Any business wishing to help can contact Samantha at: [skoolofstreet@live.com](mailto:skoolofstreet@live.com)

**4. The Living Wage**

Grace Bennett (Vista Employer Services) gave a detailed insight into the introduction of the National Living Wage, setting out what it means for the employer and the employee.

She also gave the group details of the implications of non-compliance, but also set out the benefits that the National Living Wage could bring to a business.

A fully copy of Grace's presentation can be viewed on the [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) website under Reports/Presentations.

**5. Project Search**

Sally Shaw (Blackpool Council) gave the group a presentation on Project Search, a scheme initiated by Blackpool Council to help young people with varying disabilities into employment.

She said the annual programme had been extremely successful in 2015 with a number of the students who had been through internships with local employers moving into permanent employment.

Employers included Blackpool Transport, Blackpool Council, Winter Gardens, Illuminations and the Head Start programme.

John Child (Sandcastle Waterpark) and Matthew Burrow (Blackpool Teaching Hospitals) both endorsed the scheme and gave the group an insight into how employment of these young people was transformational, both for the individual and for the people whom they worked with.

A full copy of Sally's presentation (and details of how businesses can benefit by getting involved) can be found on the [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) website under Reports/Presentations.

## 6. **The Shrievalty**

David Cam Under-Sheriff of the County Palatine of Lancaster gave the group an introduction to the historic shrievalty, setting out its origins and explaining its modern-day significance.

He then took the opportunity to announce to the group that John Barnett, the founder of Radio Wave and inaugural chairman of the BBLG, had been appointed as the next High Sheriff of Lancashire with effect from April.

Mr Cam said this was a personal appointment by the Queen and therefore a great honour.

Martin Long, current chair of the group, congratulated Mr Barnett on his appointment.

In his response, Mr Barnett told the group that he wanted to use his year-long tenure to bring real benefits to Blackpool. He said he also wanted to create much stronger links between the private sector and the third sector.

He said he would be personally contacting members of the group to explore ways in which they could help.

## 7. **Enterprise Zones - Update**

Rob Green (Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Development Co) gave the group an update on the Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse Enterprise Zones.

He said that benefits to businesses included business rates relief (with effect from April 2016) and enhanced capital allowances (with effect from April 2017).

He said progress was already being made in creating new job opportunities and work on the Blackpool & The Fylde College energy hub was expected to get underway soon on the site of the old terminal building.

Mr Green emphasized that an operational airport was integral to the success of the Airport Enterprise Zone.

A copy of Mr Green's full presentation can be found on the [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) website under Reports/Presentations.

## 8. **Business Partnerships Report**

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting. He picked out a number of items including various requests for private sector support:

### Online Survey

Businesses encouraged to participate in a short online survey prepared by the Keep Britain Tidy Group. The survey, which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XFRSLGQ>, is open until Friday 25 March.

### Property Scene Charity Ball

Tickets now on sale for the charity event at The Hilton Hotel on Friday 1 July. Businesses encouraged to buy tickets for the event or donate prizes. Contact [alex@thepropertyscene.com](mailto:alex@thepropertyscene.com) for details.

### Illuminations Ball

Tickets also on sale for the annual Illuminations Ball on April 15 at Viva. Again, businesses encouraged to buy tickets or donate raffle prizes. Contact [Shirley.hunt1@bopenworld.com](mailto:Shirley.hunt1@bopenworld.com) for details.

### Future Popular Awards

LeftCoast is seeking independent business panellists to help select the next round of Future Popular Awards, with the awards for small commissions taking place on April 25. More information can be found at this link: <http://www.leftcoast.org.uk/all/applications-open-for-future-popular/>.

### 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. Please contact Michael Williams for details, email:

[michaelwilliams@wintergardensblackpool.co.uk](mailto:michaelwilliams@wintergardensblackpool.co.uk)

### Other Items

Mr Welsh also drew the group's attention to the refurbishment of the Tower, which was now nearing completion with all the scaffolding expected to be removed by Easter.

He added that a new trampoline park, Ascent, had opened that week on Cornford Road, Blackpool. With more than 100 individual trampolines as well as ninja assault course, foam pit, flip zone and toddler area, the facility is the largest of its kind in the north.

## **9. Date and time of next meeting**

Scheduled for 7.30am for 8.30am on **Friday 27 May** at The Paradise Room, Blackpool Pleasure Beach. Further details to be provided in due course.