



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2013, AT THE HILTON, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation
Present:	
Martin Long (chair)	Napthens
Coral Horn	Pink Link
David Gore	Illuminasia
Jayne Hart	Harts Amusements
Andy Dobson	Atlas Sailing
David Jones	Thirty30Media
Chris Hibbert	Henco
Bev Robinson	Blackpool & The Fylde College
Vicky Wells	One Blackpool
Kimberley Barrett-St Vall	Napthens
Bev Wood	BWD
Steve Pye	On Blackpool TV
Kevin Bambury	Pixel Work Design
Clare Taylor	Duxburys
Alex McIntyre	Property Scene
Richard Lefton	Lefton's Group
Rob Walker	Yes Magazine
Deborah Parker	Progress Recruitment
Adrian Meakin	The Ink Squid
Maria Gibbins	Ai/Quindell
Neil Foulkes	HSBC
Gary Smith	A4e
Trevor Roberts	Blackpool Transport
Jane Littlewood	Wyred Up/Rabbit Design
Robert Owen	Pleasure Beach
Rob Green	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC
Andrew Jackson, Roger Mellor	Glasdon
Paul Crossley	Kenrick
Carmen Conquer	Aspired Futures
Lindsay Campbell	Rowleys
Simon Holden, Junior Bent	Natwest
Simon Brooke, Karen Lambert	Happy Creative
John Child	Sandcastle Waterpark
Natalie Butler	The Lindley Group
Caryn Steele	Balloonatics
Debbs Lancelott	Hounds Hill
Michael Williams	Crown Leisure
John Barnett	Stardream/The Wave
Tom Swire	Spotless UK
Natalie Brown	Business In The Community
Gary Aldred, Karen Hayton	Superfast Lancashire
Daniel Jones	Alan Jones Chartered Surveyors
Philip Dyer	NXO
Nicola Atanassova, Sarah Rhodes	Marketing Blackpool
Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla
Joanna Kay	Digital Guys
Philip Crowther	Helms Brnscoe
Louise Logan	Blackpool Sixth
Andy McCall	Ascentico
Nancy Corbin	Keep Britain Tidy
Fred Willis	First Medical
John Woodman	Blackpool FC
Yusuf Musa	Winning Pitch
Stuart Davies	The Village Heron's Reach
Kate Shane	Blackpool Tower
Nick Taylor	The Hilton
Stephen Thorpe	CME Medical
Vicky Leah	Business First
Cameron Scott	Cam Scott Leisure
Pam Swain	BADN
Rob Knighton	Eclipse
Riccy Caunce	Toast
Kristen Durose	Red Star Wealth
Michael Trainor	Creative People & Places
Advisers/Observers/Guests	
Philip Welsh, Peter Legg, David Slater	Blackpool Council
Richard Parry, Andy White	Blackpool Council
Neil Reid	Blackpool Food Bank
Laurence Llewellyn Bowen	
Apologies	
Iain Hawkins	Merlin Entertainments
Jenn Newton	Sea Life
David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Neil Sutch	RBS
David Hardy	Champion Accountants
Ray Eyre	Parkinsons
Michael Hyman	Leonard Dews
Eileen Ormand	Blackpool Town Centre BID
Barry Howard	McDonalds
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council
Claire Smith	Number One Hotels
Helen and Damien Broughton	Danbro
Paula Davies	The Wave
Robin Ross	Sand, Sea & Spray
Darren Webster	Blackpool Zoo
Nick Bell	Tyson Construction
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose
Wendy Swift	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Trust
Philip Owen	Barclays
Mark Yates	Brooks Collectables
Gareth Carr	JobCentre
Michelle Smith	Blackpool Carers
David Houston	Trinity Hospice

1. **Welcome and apologies**

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

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

No matters arising

3. **Business and the Illuminations**

Laurence Llewelyn Bowen presented to the group on the need for more tangible business support for the annual Illuminations display.

He said the Illuminations were one of the defining features of Blackpool. Although it is worth around £200m to the local economy, business contributions had fallen to an all-time low of £12k in 2013. By contrast, public contributions had remained stable at around £120k.

He said that in other areas lighting displays (such as the Regent Street Christmas lights in London) were funded entirely by the business community.

He urged businesses to consider sponsorship of the Illuminations but to do it in a tangible way – for example, the Beaverbrooks sponsorship of the “Bling” section or Graham & Brown’s sponsorship of the “Art For Walls” section of the 2013 display.

He said he was willing to work with interested parties to help develop designs and features that complemented the sponsoring business.

Any business interested in discussing ideas with Laurence should contact Philip.welsh@blackpool.gov.uk in the first instance.

4. **Supporting The Arts**

Music Education Hub

Andy White (Blackpool Council) encouraged businesses to support the Blackpool music service which provides extensive support to schools including provision of free instrument loan and tuition to all 8 and 9-year-olds. As a result, 4,000 pupils were now taking instrumental lessons.

He said that investment from businesses would:

- Offer continuity of provision for schoolchildren
- Help rejuvenate Blackpool’s entertainment business
- Provide progression routes for talented pupils
- Help increase tourism

Andy’s full presentation can be found at www.bblg.co.uk under the “Reports/Publications” section. He can be contacted at Andrew.white@blackpool.gov.uk

Grundy Art Gallery

Richard Parry, the new curator of the Grundy, gave a brief presentation on the work of the gallery and his objective of building its reputation nationally.

He said that there were a number of ways in which businesses could be engaged in the Grundy. For example:

- Supporting shows and exhibitions
- Staging corporate events in the gallery space
- Displaying pieces of art in their own premises

Any business interested in talking to Richard about how they can support or become involved in the Grundy can contact him at Richard.parry@blackpool.gov.uk

5. Talbot Gateway Opportunities

Clare Taylor (Duxbury's) gave a presentation on the Talbot Gateway development which is now nearing completion opposite Blackpool North Railway Station.

She said this development included a new public square; 100,000sq ft of new office accommodation; 40,000sq ft of café, restaurant, retail and leisure space; a Sainsbury's food store creating up to 350 jobs and 1400 parking spaces, including refurbishment of the former Talbot Road Bus Station.

Clare reported that whilst part of the office space at Bickerstaffe House would be occupied by Blackpool Council and some of the ground floor retail units there and also in the adjacent former bus station building had already been let, there were still opportunities for businesses to become part of the scheme.

A copy of the brochure including more details of the scheme and specifications of the units that are available can be found on the www.bblg.co.uk website under the "Reports/Publications" section.

For further information or requests to view contact claretaylor@duxburyscommercial.co.uk or hello@talbotgateway.com

6. Business Showcase

Maria Gibbins, Training, Learning and Development Manager for Quindell gave a presentation on the re-branding of Ai Claims to Quindell.

She gave an outline of the services undertaken by the company and also illustrated the company's continuing growth in terms of headcount.

Maria said that the growth was expected to continue into 2014 with new roles being continuously created in areas such as Customer Service, Finance, ICT & Computing, Business Analysis and Legal Services.

She invited any of the members of the BBLG to contact her if they wished to know anything further about the company's growth or could assist in staff recruitment. Contact: GibbinsM@quindell.com

A full copy of Maria's presentation can be found at the www.bblg.co.uk website under the "Reports/Publications" section.

Martin Long said that it was intended to do regular "Business Showcase" presentations at meetings in 2014. Any businesses interested in presenting, contact Philip.welsh@blackpool.gov.uk

7. The Blackpool Food Bank

Neil Reid, Chair of the Blackpool Food Bank, gave a presentation on the work of the voluntary organisation, which was established in February 2012.

He said that the food bank started giving out three-day emergency food parcels in February last year and by the end of December had supplied 364 families. In the first quarter of this year alone it supplied 378 families.

He urged businesses to help resolve the issue of poverty in Blackpool.

Any business interested in talking to Neil about the work of the Food Bank and the way in which they might be able to support can contact him at neil@blackpoolfoodbank.co.uk

8. Business Partnerships Report

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) drew the group's attention to the following items in his report:

Christmas Switch On, Blackpool Town Centre: Scheduled to be held the following day (November 30) in St John's Square.

Lancashire Vital Signs: Noted that the launch of the Vital Signs initiative by the Community Foundation of Lancashire would take place at the Tower Ballroom on December 3.

9. Any Other Business

i) Mentoring Support: Steve Pye, On Blackpool TV, reported that his business was working with students on a number of enterprise based initiatives and would welcome the support of businesses in terms of mentoring. Any business interested should contact:

steve.pye@consultant.com

ii) One Blackpool: Vicky Wells, Programme Director for One Blackpool, introduced the organisation – stating that its key objective was to develop and grow a strong, vibrant and sustainable voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector in Blackpool. She said that One Blackpool was also seeking to harness some of the business skills within the town, possibly through board representation. Any business interested in discussing this with Vicky should contact her at: Vicky.wells@oneblackpool.coop

iii) Positive PR Campaign: Joanna Kay, Digital Guys, reported that she was running a three-week positive PR campaign through social media. The key objective was to generate upbeat messages about Blackpool. All businesses invited to participate.

iv) Nutrition Group: On behalf of the group, Martin Long congratulated Nutrition Group for being named as North West Business Of The Year in the North West Chartered Accountants annual awards. Laila's Fine Foods was one of two runners-up.

Martin Long thanked the Hilton for hosting the meeting and the various guest speakers for their contributions.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for **7.45am for 8.30am, Friday 31st January** at **The Village, Heron's Reach, Blackpool**. Parking available on site, breakfast to be served in the hotel restaurant (Buca di Beppo).