



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2019, AT THE LANCASHIRE ENERGY HQ, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthen's	Terry Hodkinson, Julie Holland	Blackpool Carers
Neil Whattam, Hazel Johnson	Caterware	Paul Inman	Fresh Furnishings
Shirley Williams, Duncan Wilding	PHX Training	Stacey deRome	Hampton by Hilton
Greg Bate	Seetec	David Galvin	Blackpool Housing Co
Julie Brown, Julie Casson	DWP	Matt Gibbs	Wellbeing Consultant
Lawrence McBurney, Alistair Baines	Cassidy & Ashton	Mick Grewcock, Katy Simister	The Burbage Group
Tina Cooper, Debbi Hodson	Blackpool Sixth	Danny Dalton	Brightprint/Music & Mayhem
Nicola Stott	Viva Blackpool	Robert Dewick-Day	Bellavista
Ian Mallam	Digitav	Robert Heys	Blackpool FC Community Trust
Colin Johnston	Grand Theatre	Chris Hibbert	Henco
Greg Goodall, Richard Burnett	AWOL TV	David Houston	Trinity Hospice
Emily Dixon, Johanne Agnola	UCLAN	Mark Ferris	Contract Supplies Ltd
Bev Robinson	Blackpool & The Fylde College	John Holmes	Swallows Support Group
Paul Friday, Andy Green	Future Focus Energy	Grahame Latus	Enterprise Answers
John Barnett	The Wave/Stardream	Mike Lovell, Alexandra Meadowcroft	Chameleon Finance
John and Jaki Armstrong	Majestic N-W	Kieran McGuinness, Melanie Whitehead	Electric Sunshine Project
Ron Bell	Abbey Bell Consultants	Anthony Monks, Harpinder Singh	Atlas
Chris Calvert	Rushton's Accountants	Geoff Moore	Canberra Hotel
Damian Broughton	Danbro	Dave Preston	Offigo
Steve Burns	Think Forward	Vicky Reynolds	Ashworth Treasure
Mark Croasdale	Whitehead & Howarth	Rachel Riches	The Village Hotel
Tom Hutton, Chris McNally	AFC Fylde Community Foundation	Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design
Helen Atkinson, Sue Williams	Aspired Futures	Alex McIntyre	The Property Scene
Richard Baguley	GDR Public Relations	Heather Morrow, Nigel Patterson	Blackpool Museum
Sam Bell, Aishley Doherty	Skool Of Street	Lee Parkinson, Jonathan Thompson	Northern Neon
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics	Helen Livesey	The Business Clinic
Mike Berry	Consultant	Tom Mercer	Handelsbanken
Andrew Wareing, Andy Atkinson	Voucher Packs	Alison Paterson	Blackpool Pleasure Beach
David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure	Andy Percival	Blackpool In Bloom
Joanne Etherington	Lloyds Banking	Phil McVan	i-Energy Insights
Mike Hardaker	Moore & Smalley	Philip Owen	Success For Business
Paul Hardy, Clare Hynes	Napthens	David Stevenson	Cuadrilla Resources
Krisztina Szigeti	Happy Creative	Colin Taylor	Stay Blackpool
Clare Taylor	Duxbury's Commercial	Andrea Wallace	Wyre Council
Nigel Sanders	Pure Air Group	Johnathon Townsend	Lloyds
Amanda Westgate	Big Impact Communications	Ian White	Chorlton Hotel
Mark Wilkins	Sandcastle Waterpark	Simon Smith	Natwest
Michael Williams	Winter Gardens	Steve Williams	Force Technology
Elaine Smith	Friends of Stanley Park	Bev Wood	BWD Design
Andrew Woolley	Chamber of Commerce	Shaun Pickup	Dahlia's Kitchen
Tim Gavell	The Gazette	Claire Smith	Number One Hotels
Louise Logan	Career Ready	Fiona Reid	Butterworth's Solicitors
Jane Hugo	Streetlife	Kila Redfearn	Blue Skies
Ian Wright	Lancaster University	Carlo Petza, Andy Lester	Carlton Best Western
Mary Speakman	Code Galaxy	Dawn Alderson	McDonalds
OBSERVERS/GUESTS/HOSTS			
Philip Welsh, Steve Thompson, Ian Morris-Iliffe	Blackpool Council	Cheryl Dunn, Robby Ryan, Claire Jameson, Simon Hughes	Blackpool & The Fylde College
Richard Fee, Nick Payne	Nikal	Norbert Reichart	Media Invest Entertainment
APOLOGIES			
Vanda De Freitas	Positive Steps Into Work	Debbs Lancelott	HoundsHill
Andy Mellor	Primary Futures	Emily Hawkins	UCLAN
Amanda Crossley	Concierge Ninja	David Worsfold	The Hive
Effie Sharp	Randstad Education	Caryn and David Steele	Balloonatics
Pam Swain	British Asscn of Dental Nurses	Barrie Thompson	China UK Business Centre
Shirley Hunt	Cranstone Hotel	Steve Gill	Fylde Promotional Merchandise
Joe Boniface, Nicola Wildman	Boniface Architects	Neil Jack, Peter Legg	Blackpool Council
Nick Gerrard	Growth & Prosperity	Steve Godfrey	Fujitsu UK
Nicola Atanassova	VisitBlackpool	David Cam	Under Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster
Roger Mellor	Glasdon	Katherine O'Connor	Cities & Local Growth
Lindsay Campbell	Campbell & Rowley	Tony Carr	Social Enterprise Solutions
Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Alex Brown	AKS
Key Donnelly	XP Web Services	Julie Hutson	Key Accounting Solutions
Kristen Durose	Red Star Wealth	Kate Shane	Merlin Entertainments
Peter Appleton	Multi-Ply Components	Julie Blackett	Sainsbury's
Sham Sangha	Silicon Talent	Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co
Gemma Walker, Geoff Packer	Helispeed	Sharon Watts	Winston's
Chris Maine	DPA Packaging	Tony Raynor	Abbey Telecom
Chris Aiken-Graham	FSB	Yusuf Musa	Enterprise4All
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose	Jake Adams	The Mina Group
Michael Pickthall	Pinpoint Consultants	Nicole Billington	Airport Enterprise Zone
Shane Grindey	BTS	Phillip Parramore	Guidedotyou
Belinda Shore	Santander	Alex Cosgrave	The Belgian Life

1. Welcome and apologies

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

Bev Robinson, Chief Executive and Principal of Blackpool & The Fylde College also gave a brief introduction to the group and outlined the purpose of the Energy College. She also introduced members of her team.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

Nothing to report.

3. Blackpool Council Budget

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources for Blackpool Council, gave the group an insight into the 2019/2020 Budget Plan which is due to go to Blackpool Council for approval in mid-February. He said that the last decade had seen one of the worst periods in local government history in terms of funding.

He outlined some of the challenges facing the local authority in managing years of Central Government funding cuts and illustrated the way in which the authority would handle a further £9m of cuts over the next financial year.

He also set out the progressive way in which the authority had met these challenges, partly though the establishment of seven wholly-owned companies to deliver services.

4. Blackpool Housing Company

David Galvin, Managing Director of Blackpool Housing Co, gave the group an update on the work that had been undertaken over the past three years since the company was formed.

He said the company's overall vision was to be the landlord of choice in Blackpool, with an objective of substantially improving the standards, choice and management of rental accommodation. He said the company had a number of key functions:

- ❖ Purchase redundant, end-of-life or poor quality building and convert and renovate into high-quality rental products
- ❖ Provide a lettings and property management service through My Blackpool Home
- ❖ Provide a commercial service to other landlords
- ❖ Manage major new housing projects such as Foxhall and Queens Park

David then provided a number of examples where derelict properties including disused B&Bs had been purchased and completely transformed into high-quality family homes and apartments. He said the company will have developed almost 300 units by the end of March and that this figure would rise to more than 900 by March 2025. The group applauded his company for the work that they were doing.

David's presentation can be viewed on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

5. **Offigo – Progress Report**

Dave Preston, Offigo, gave an update on the online platform that he has established to reinvigorate the Blackpool retail offer.

He said that since launch the site had had more than 100,000 unique visitors with 1.4m page views. He said that it was outperforming sites such as Google and Facebook in terms of advertising clicks and also outperforming a number of regional shopping centres based on website traffic.

He set out ways in which local businesses could engage with his site to boost trade. He also outlined incentives for referrals and offered new businesses signing up a starting credit of £50.

Dave's presentation, including details of how to redeem the offer, can be viewed on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

6. **Blackpool Carers**

Terry Hodkinson and Julie Holland gave the group an insight into various fund-raising activities which are taking place over the coming year. These include a Blackpool Tower to Eiffel Tower cycling event taking place over five days in September; a masquerade ball at The Imperial Hotel on February 9; and a "Wakepark Wipeout" team-building event at Blackpool Wakepark on June 10.

They also set out the importance of business partnerships and showed Out Of The Woods, a short film illustrating the challenges of being a young carer. Businesses are encouraged to support the fund-raising events.

Terry and Julie's presentation can be viewed on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

7. **Blackpool In Bloom**

Andy Percival, Blackpool Allotments, appealed for the business community to support the Beautiful Blackpool/Blackpool In Bloom events. He said that businesses could support these initiatives by sponsoring large planters or by simply putting up floral displays. He said the theme for this year's event is "Blackpool By The Sea".

Businesses wishing to support the event, contact Andy at lawsonrdallotments@gmail.com

8. **Blackpool Central**

Richard Fee and Nick Payne (Nikal) and Norbert Reichart (Media Invest Entertainment) gave the group an extended presentation on the proposed £300m leisure development on the site of the former Central Station site.

It was noted that this was the biggest single investment in the resort's tourism industry for more than a century and comprised world-class visitor attractions along with new hotels, restaurants, food market, event square, residential apartments and multi-storey parking.

They said that the development was inspired by Chariots Of The Gods, a global publishing phenomenon, written by Swiss author Erich Von Däniken, that explores alien encounters and unsolved mysteries of ancient civilisations.

Chariots Of The Gods will be the main theme for Blackpool Central including the anchor attraction - the UK's first "flying theatre", a fully-immersive thrill ride that will create the incredible sensation of human flight.

It is estimated that the development will attract 600,000 additional visitors a year with a combined annual spend of £75m. It will also create around 1,000 new jobs.

After showing a film of the proposed development, the three presenters then hosted a short Q&A with members of the audience.

A copy of the Blackpool Central presentation can be viewed on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

9. Business Partnerships Report

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) highlighted the following item:

Blackpool-based Charities

He drew the group's attention to the charitable fund-raising activities mentioned in the report, including a new Night Run which will be held in support of Brian House two days before Illuminations Switch-On. He urged the business community to support the activities of Blackpool-based charities such as Trinity Hospice, Brian House and the Young Carers.

10. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the College for hosting the meeting and the various speakers for their contributions. A tour of the building was offered to a number of businesses after the meeting closed.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30am for 8.30am on Friday 29 March, 2019 at The Village Hotel, East Park Drive, Blackpool.