



## BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

### NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 30, 2015 AT THE VILLAGE, HERON'S REACH

| Name                                  | Organisation                | Name                            | Organisation                  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>ATTENDEES</b>                      |                             |                                 |                               |
| Martin Long (chair), Malcolm Ireland  | Napthens                    | Philip Owen                     | Barclays                      |
| Jane Littlewood                       | Rabbit Design/Wyred Up      | David Cam                       | Consultant                    |
| Philip Owen                           | Barclays                    | Salim Patel, Yusuf Musa         | Winning Pitch                 |
| Cassie Forshaw                        | Merlin Entertainments       | Liz Edmondson                   | Johnston Press                |
| Shaun Bennett                         | Links Signs & Graphics      | Michael Williams, Kila Redfearn | Winter Gardens                |
| Charlotte Gili-Ross                   | Ribby Hall                  | Kevin Bambury, Michael Buck     | Pixel Work Design             |
| Rob Green                             | Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC | Nick Donovan, Adam Fairclough   | Transpennine                  |
| Sally Snowdon                         | Letting Solutions           | Vicky Reynolds                  | Ashworth Treasure             |
| Rob Knighton                          | Eclipse Developments        | Jenn Newton                     | Sea Life                      |
| Clare Taylor                          | Duxbury's Commercial        | Matthew Titherington            | Madame Tussauds               |
| Lawrence McBurney, Alistair Baines    | Cassidy and Ashton          | Ian Collins                     | Sainsburys                    |
| Bev Wood                              | BWD Design                  | Janet Walker                    | Stageworks                    |
| Andy Fraser                           | Blackpool Granite           | Jim Firth                       | Genting Casino                |
| Simon Coxhill, Steve Hanson           | Chadwicks                   | Matt Watts                      | Lancashire Cheesecake Co      |
| Ruth Eastwood, Colin Johnston         | Blackpool Grand Theatre     | Sarah Rhodes                    | Rhodes Media                  |
| Neil Foulkes                          | HSBC                        | Coral Horn                      | Pink Link                     |
| Martin York                           | Centrica                    | Norry Ascroft                   | Entertainer/Consultant        |
| Joe Bullock                           | Premier Inn                 | Ruth Patton                     | Pattons Community             |
| Lindsay Campbell                      | Rowley's                    | Paul McCherry                   | Cloud 9 IT Services           |
| Alison Gilmore                        | Imperial Hotel              | Susanne Johnson                 | FSB/Johnsons of Bond Street   |
| Richard Lefton                        | Lefton's Group              | Duncan Whitehead                | Total Clean                   |
| Claire Smith                          | Number One Hotels           | David Houston, Linzi Young      | Trinity Hospice               |
| Kristen Durose                        | Red Star Wealth             | Jon-Paul Jackson                | Jacksons Coaches              |
| Roger Mellor, Andrew Jackson          | Glasdon                     | Debbie Topping                  | Lancashire Women's Centre     |
| Ian Fogg                              | Business In The Community   | David Hardy                     | Champion Group                |
| Jon McLeod, Natalie Dobson            | Blackpool Sixth             | Barry Howard                    | McDonalds                     |
| Vito Cinardi                          | Litigation Solutions        | Shirley Hunt, Colin Taylor      | Illuminations Ambassadors     |
| Andy Higgins                          | The Mailing Room            | Peter Jefferson                 | Visionistic                   |
| Caryn and David Steele                | Balloonatics                | Sue Kennerley, Annie Ogilvie    | Blackpool Transport           |
| Neil Sutch                            | RBS                         | Peter Jefferson                 | Visionistic                   |
| Cassie Troughton                      | Heart FM                    | Chris Taplin                    | Re-think Design               |
| John Magee, Amanda Elliott            | Freeport                    | Robert Owen                     | Blackpool Pleasure Beach      |
| Andy Dobson                           | Atlas Sailing               | Erica Crompton                  | Big Foot Events               |
| Karen Lambert, Simon Brooke           | Happy Creative              | Sarah Marsden-Hughes            | Voiteq                        |
| Ashley Dribben                        | Metcalf Estate Agents       | Craig Evans                     | Voiteq                        |
| Chris Maine                           | DPA Packaging               | Andy Atkinson                   | Voucher Packs                 |
| Philip Crowther                       | Helms Briscoe               | Simon Booth                     | Astute Motoring               |
| Nick Taylor                           | Hilton                      | Philip Helm                     | Tyson Construction            |
| Lee Kirton, Dean Fitzmaurice          | Colossal                    | Jeremy Smith                    | LYtham Coffee Co              |
| David Chapman                         | Linksgate Leisure           | Lyndsey Kaye, Jeff Smith        | JSM Building Solutions        |
| Riccy Counce                          | Toast                       | Susan Bamber                    | De Vere                       |
| Belinda Betts                         | Museum For Blackpool        | Drew Davidson                   | Cooperative Management Travel |
| Bev Robinson, Michelle Riley          | Blackpool & Fylde College   | Steve Gill, Graham Arnold       | Fylde Promotional Merchandise |
| Yvonne Cooper                         | Blackpool Jobcentre         | Paul Linderman                  | The Berkeley Apartments       |
| Jonathan Cropper                      | Kingswood Stationers        | John Barnett                    | Stardream/The Wave            |
| Carl Anthony                          | Performance Coach           | Robin Ross                      | Sand, Sea and Spray           |
| Mark Yates                            | Brooks Collectables         | David McGing                    | Ibis Hotel                    |
| Paul Wilcock                          | Montpelier                  | Angelique Gonzales              | Ibis Hotel                    |
| Mick Grewcock                         | Burbage Holiday Group       | Linda Markey, Deborah Terres    | UR Potential                  |
| David Clewes, Susie Gallagher         | Store It                    | Brian Morrison                  | 8 Business Networking         |
| Steve Singleton                       | Cuadrilla Resources         | Paul Friday                     | Future Focus Energy           |
| Alan Lockett, Shirley Williamson      | PHX Training                | Martin Booker, Courtney Bushell | Fleetwood Town                |
| Philip Hardcastle                     | PH Developments             | Michelle Smith                  | Carers Trust                  |
| <b>OBSERVERS/GUESTS</b>               |                             |                                 |                               |
| Philip Welsh, Alan Cavill, Peter Legg | Blackpool Council           | Gordon Marsden                  | MP for Blackpool South        |
| <b>APOLOGIES</b>                      |                             |                                 |                               |
| Cath Stewart                          | Community Foundation        | Jane Cole                       | Blackpool Transport           |
| Neil Jack                             | Blackpool Council           | John Child                      | Sandcastle                    |
| Louise Logan                          | Careers Academy             | Kate Shane                      | Blackpool Tower               |
| Jayne Hart                            | Harts Amusements            | Nick Leach                      | RBS                           |
| Nicola Atanassova                     | VisitBlackpool              | David Jones                     | Thirty30 Media                |
| Simon Holden                          | Natwest                     | Nick Bell                       | Tyson Construction            |
| Anne Catterson                        | Common Purpose              | Chris Hibbert                   | Henco                         |
| Graham Wood                           | WEC Group                   | Mike Walton                     | AKS                           |
| Emma Purdon                           | Premiere Recruitment        | John Keen                       | RKMS                          |
| John Woodman                          | Blackpool FC                | Gerry Lynch                     | Gem Associates                |
| Mike Hardaker                         | Moore & Smalley             | Carmen Conquer                  | Aspired Futures               |
| Stuart Livesey                        | Consultant                  | Alex McIntyre                   | Property Scene                |

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Martin Long (chair, Napthens) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He invited businesses attending the meeting for the first time to introduce themselves. It was noted that a record number of businesses were in attendance.

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

The notes of the meeting held on November 28 were agreed as a correct record. No matters arising

**3. Gordon Marsden, MP for Blackpool South**

Mr Marsden gave an extended presentation to the group, covering a range of topics including the local and national economy; tourism; employment; Blackpool South Shore; Blackpool Airport; heritage and regeneration.

He said there was a clear need for partnership working on the Fylde Coast to ensure the resort was moving forward and cited the example of Merlin and Blackpool Council working together on the Blackpool's Back destination marketing campaign.

He said it was vitally important that Government recognised tourism as a special sector and that it also recognised the issues affecting seaside towns.

Mr Marsden then took part in a Q&A session answering questions on Blackpool FC; the potential for a "City Of The Fylde" combined authority and the importance of maintaining subsidies on bus routes serving schools and colleges.

**4. Free Training For Employees**

Alan Lockett (PHX Training) presented to the group on free training for employees in English and Maths. He said that qualifying businesses could attract a payment of £800 per learner up to a maximum of £2.4k. He said that 44 spaces remained on the February course. No details are yet available for courses beyond February. The full presentation (including contact details) can be found under "Reports/Publications" on the [www.bblq.co.uk](http://www.bblq.co.uk) website.

**5. Shale Gas**

Rob Green (Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Development Co) presented on a number of areas of activity including the latest developments on the shale gas exploration plans for Lancashire and an application for Blackpool Airport to be given Enterprise Zone status. Mr Green said that the result of the Enterprise Zone submission would likely be made in March.

**Note:** At the end of the meeting Lee Kirton (Colossal Training) raised a number of issues relating to inward investment and European funding. It was agreed by the chair that these issues would be addressed outside the meeting and reported back.

**6. Trinity Hospice 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

David Houston and Linzi Young (Trinity Hospice) gave a presentation on the hospice's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They alerted the group to a number of fund-raising activities including the annual ball which is being held at the Tower Ballroom on September 26 and a special event being held at the hospice at 6.30pm on Thursday 12 March when local businesses can find out more about the work of the hospice and how they can support it.

The full presentation can be found on the [www.bblq.co.uk](http://www.bblq.co.uk) website.

**7. Blackpool Rail Services**

Nick Donovan (First Transpennine Express) gave a presentation on proposed changes to Transpennine services between Manchester Airport and Blackpool North.

It was noted that the changes would result in poorer quality rolling stock being used on some Blackpool services although there would be an increase in overall capacity and frequency would be maintained.

Mr Donovan said that the issue was linked to the overall shortage of diesel rolling stock across the UK. As a result, Transpennine had been required to sub-hire rolling stock from Northern Rail.

Alan Cavill (Blackpool Council) said that the changes to the Transpennine services had been followed by an announcement that Northern Rail would be terminating some services from Liverpool Lime Street at Preston Station as opposed to the train continuing on to Blackpool North.

He said the Council had been in discussion with both Northern and Transpennine over these changes and had also held a meeting with Virgin Trains to discuss their future strategy for services to and from Blackpool.

The full Transpennine presentation can be found under "Reports/Publications" on the [www.bblq.co.uk](http://www.bblq.co.uk) website.

## 8. **Business Partnerships Report**

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) tabled his report in advance of the meeting. He brought the following items to the attention of the meeting:

### **Illuminations:**

He reported that the Illuminations had been awarded a £2m grant from the Coastal Communities Fund which would enable significant investment in new features over the next two years. However, it was important to bear in mind that this grant funding did not take away the issue of how to make the Illuminations sustainable in the long term without being almost totally dependent on the Council. Hence, there was still a requirement for enhanced business and public support.

He said that a new Illuminations sponsorship brochure had been produced and this would be launched at an event for businesses to be hosted by Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen at the new Theatre Bar within the Winter Gardens on Thursday 26 February. Invitations to be sent out over the next week or so.

### **Showzam!:**

PW reported that the annual half term festival would take place between February 14 and 18. He said a special preview of the main event – Circolombia – would take place at the Tower Circus on the evening of Friday 13 February. An invitation to businesses to take up the offer of two free tickets would be sent out soon.

## 9. **Any Other Business**

**David Cam Appointment:** It was noted that David Cam had been appointed as Under-Sheriff for the County Palatine of Lancashire.

Martin Long congratulated him on behalf of the group.

**Condolences:** Martin Long (Chair) expressed sympathies over the recent death of Michael Taylor, chair of the Carr Royd Leisure Group, who died in January aged 78.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.45am for 8.30am on Friday 27 March, 2015, at Rowley's/Blackpool FC Hotel