



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 31, 2014, AT THE VILLAGE, HERON'S REACH, BLACKPOOL

| Name | Organisation | Name | Organisation |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| ATTENDEES | | | |
| John Barnett (chair) | Stardream | Rob Green | Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC |
| Kimberley Barrett-St. Vall, Gareth Birch | Napthens | Paul Wilcock | Montpelier Chartered Accountants |
| Anne Catterson | Common Purpose | Matt Watts | Lancashire Cheesecake Co |
| Jim Firth | Genting Casinos | Vicky Reynolds | Ashworth Treasure |
| Bev Robinson | Blackpool & The Fylde College | Shaun Bennett | Links Signs & Graphics |
| Alison Gilmore | The Imperial | David Chapman | Linksgate Leisure |
| Simon Holden | NatWest | Elaine Purves, Clare Riding | Rossall School |
| John Woodman | Blackpool FC | Neil Sutch | RBS |
| Steve Pye | On Blackpool TV | Carmen Conquer, Helen Atkinson | Aspired Futures |
| Philip Owen | Barclays | Iain Hawkins, Cassie Forshaw | Merlin Entertainments |
| Colin Johnston, Ruth Eastwood | Grand Theatre | Jayne Hart | Harts Amusements |
| Roger Mellor, Andrew Jackson | Glasdon | Michael Williams | Crown Leisure |
| Lee Harris | NXO North West | Sean Crofts | Premier Recruitment |
| Robert Owen | Blackpool Pleasure Beach | Henry Baldwin | Northern Security |
| Natalie Brown | Business Connector | Shirley Hunt | Cranstone Hotel |
| Robin Ross | Sand, Sea & Spray | Neil Foulkes | HSBC |
| Damian and Helen Broughton | Danbro | Caryn Steele | Balloonatics |
| Claire Smith | Number One Hotels | Jane Fox | Fox Planning & Development Consultancy |
| Sally Snowdon | Letting Solutions | Steph Smith | Sandcastle Waterpark |
| Dina Pejcinovic | Banks and Co | Fiona Reid | Ascroft Whiteside |
| Adrian Meakin | The Ink Squid | Lee Kirton, Natalie Smith | Colossal Maritime |
| David Hardy | Champion Accountants | Rob Walker | Yes Magazine |
| Justin Allitt | Consultant | Barry Howard | McDonalds |
| Jeremy Smith | Lytham Coffee Co | Malcolm Robertson | J3 Projects |
| Joanna Kay | Digital Guys | Kristen Durose | Red Star Wealth |
| Sarah Rhodes | Visit Blackpool | Louise Logan | Blackpool Sixth |
| Philip Holmes | In The Pink | Karen Lambert, Simon Brooke | Happy Creative |
| Chris Hibbert | Henco | Steve Singleton | Cuadrilla |
| Richard Lefton | The Leftons Group | Tom Swires | Spotless UK |
| Nick Taylor | The Hilton | Philip Days | The Property Group |
| Peter Lea | S Class Cars | Coral Horn | Pink Link |
| Les Ball | Town Centre BID | Tim Allan | Blackpool Pride |
| Debbs Lancelott, Mark Hickey | HoundsHill Shopping Centre | Darren Webster | Blackpool Zoo |
| Ray Eyre | Parkinsons | Susan Bamber | De Vere Heron's Reach |
| Natalie Butler | The Lindley Group | Yusuf Musa | Winning Pitch |
| Alex McIntyre | Property Scene | Kate Shane | Blackpool Tower |
| Clare Taylor | Duxburys | Mark Yates | Brooks Collectables |
| Paul Crossley | Kenrick | Pearl Mina | Consultant |
| Andy Dobson | Atlas Sailing | Steve Whitehouse | FTS |
| Fred Wills | First Medical | Gary Aldred | Superfast Lancashire |
| Stephen Thorpe | CME Medical | Keith Blackburn | Jacks |
| Annie Heslop | Keep Britain Tidy | Vanda de Freitas | Positive Steps |
| David Houston | Trinity Hospice | David Gore | Illuminasia |
| Vito Cinardi | Litigation | Joseph Boniface | Boniface Architects |
| Norrie Ascroft | Entertainer | Rosey Rihani | RSR |
| OBSERVERS/GUESTS | | | |
| Alan Cavill, Philip Welsh, Peter Legg | Blackpool Council | | |
| Mike Phelan, Nicola Baguley | Blackpool & The Fylde College | | |
| Jo Hutchinson, Natalie Yalden | JHI | | |
| Nick Grace, Francesca D'Amico-Brown | Little Star | | |
| APOLOGIES | | | |
| Bev Wood | BWD Design | Cath Stewart | Community Foundation |
| Deborah Parker | Progress Recruitment | Wendy Swift | Blackpool Teaching Hospitals |
| Martin Long | Napthens | Neil Reid | Blackpool Food Bank |
| Gary Smith | A4E | Pauline Lai | Mandarin |
| Michael Hyman | Leonard Dews | Nick Bell, Paul Whelan | Tyson |
| Trevor Roberts | Blackpool Transport | Zera Remtulla | Lailas |
| Gareth Carr | Job Centre Plus | Paul Mathison | Create Construction |
| David Cam | Consultant | Neil Jack | Blackpool Council |
| Nick Leach | NatWest | Kevin Bambury, Mike Buck | Pixel Work Design |
| Jonathan Cropper | Kingswood | David Jones | Thirty 30 Media |
| Rob Knighton | Eclipse | Pam Swain | British Asscn of Dental Nurses |
| Andy McCall | Ascentico | | |

1. **Welcome and apologies**

John Barnett (Stardream/The Wave) advised that he had been asked to chair the meeting in the absence of Martin Long (Naphthens). He welcomed new members to the meeting.

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

The notes of the meeting held on November 29 were accepted as a correct record. Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) thanked those businesses that had already responded to Laurence Llewelyn Bowen's appeal for a greater contribution to the Illuminations display. He said a number of businesses were working with the designer on bespoke features for the 2014 display and there was still an opportunity for others to get involved too.

3. **Employment Law Update**

Kimberley Barrett-St.Vall (Naphthens) gave a presentation on various aspects of employment law. A headline summary of her presentation can be found on the www.bblq.co.uk website under the "Reports/Publications" section. Anyone wishing to find out how to get more information on any of the topics can contact Kimberley by email at: kimberley.barrett-st.vall@naphthens.co.uk

4. **Opportunities For Employers**

Bev Robinson (Principal and Chief Executive of Blackpool & The Fylde College) gave a presentation on the various ways in which the College adds value to the business community.

These include:

- Comprehensive range of training and development
- Training needs analysis
- Staff recruitment services
- Research activity
- Student placements, traineeships and volunteering

It was noted that the College had around 20,000 students each year. Bev cited examples where the College had offered bespoke employment services to businesses across the Fylde Coast.

A copy of her presentation can be found on the www.bblq.co.uk website under the "Reports/Publications" section. For further information on the various services offered to employers by the College, contact mphe@blackpool.ac.uk

5. **Love My Beach**

Annie Heslop (Keep Britain Tidy Group) gave a brief presentation on the work of the group in addressing litter on the beaches and bathing water quality in the run-up to the introduction of new European legislation in 2015.

She outlined a new Love My Beach business initiative which encourages businesses to play their part in helping Blackpool and the Fylde Coast to achieve the new legislative standards.

She said the purpose of the campaign was for businesses to operate in a "beach friendly" way. Those that could demonstrate this can become Love My Beach accredited and receive a window sticker and certificate to display.

Annie said that the Sea Life Centre was the first business to sign up to the initiative and she encouraged other businesses to do likewise.

A copy of the business pack and the various ways in which businesses can help can be found at the www.bblq.co.uk website under the "Reports/Publications" section.

6. **Mamma Mia!**

The marketing and production teams for the international touring production of Mamma Mia! gave a presentation on the business opportunities linked to the summer season run of the show.

Nick Grace (Little Star) said the international show was currently in South Korea and would take in Switzerland before moving to Blackpool Opera House for 10 weeks commencing June 20.

He said the production offered a tremendous opportunity for the resort and for businesses to capitalise on the potential spin off benefits for the visitor economy including accommodation packages and client entertaining.

There may also be opportunities for the cast to work with the local community during their stay in Blackpool.

Jo Hutchinson (JHI) said that the production would be extensively advertised in coming weeks and months through TV, radio, printed media and external sites.

She said that a group rate would be made available to BBLG members, which could be used to entertain staff, clients, family and friends. Details of this to be circulated once confirmed.

It was also revealed that a two-week extension of the summer season run from 10 weeks to 12 weeks would also be announced soon (details of this have now been confirmed).

It was noted that the Mamma Mia! run in Blackpool was being closely watched by other leading theatre producers and if the show is successful, it could lead to a much bigger opportunity for the resort in future years.

7. **Business Partnerships Report**

Philip Welsh reported on a number of items in his report:

Showzam! Carnival Ball: Tickets still available for the Carnival Ball event at the Tower Ballroom on Saturday 15 February. Details on the www.visitblackpool.com website or email Sarah Rhodes – sarah@visitblackpool.com

Pride Festival: Private sector support sought for the annual Blackpool Pride Festival which is taking place over the weekend of June 14 and 15 at the Winter Gardens. This can be via sponsorship, advertising, a marketplace or by involvement in a “best dressed town centre shop” competition with a Mamma Mia theme. Contact advertising@blackpoolpridefest.com for details.

Assisted Area Status: Noted that Blackpool had been included in an Assisted Area status proposal by Government for the first time. A total of 11 wards have been included.

Philip Welsh said that the proposal was still only at draft stage and it would be helpful if the BBLG could send a letter of endorsement. Agreed that this should be produced and sent off prior to the February 7 deadline.

Bloc Roc: Noted that Bloc Roc, the organisers of a grassroots youth project in Blackpool is in urgent need of a new venue. The group aims to provide a creative platform for young people using music, art, dance, fashion and urban supports.

The Bloc Roc team staged an indoor festival in the Winter Gardens last year and are planning various events in 2014, but urgently need an affordable venue as the Winter Gardens space will be occupied by the new Illuminasia attraction over the next three years.

Any business or organisation that can help should contact Steve Lawrence at blocrocing@gmail.com

LeftCoast: Blackpool's new Creative People & Places project, LeftCoast, is seeking business owners to join a small selection panel for artist's projects that will engage with various communities in Blackpool. No previous knowledge of artists or their work is required. Note that the first artist selection panel is on February 26 from 10am to 5pm, so applicants must be available that day.

Any business person interested in joining the panel should contact Michael Trainor (with a short paragraph of information about themselves) at Michael.trainor@bch.co.uk

8. Any Other Business

John Barnett thanked the manager and staff of the De Vere Heron's Reach for hosting the meeting and also the various guest speakers for their contributions.

He also congratulated Basil Newby, founder of the Funny Girls entertainment empire, for his MBE award in the New Year Honours List.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for **7.45am for 8.30am, Friday 28th March** at **Viva Showbar** (promenade end of Church Street in Blackpool town centre). Parking arrangements to be confirmed.