



## BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

### NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 31, 2020, AT BLACKPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
<b>ATTENDEES</b>			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthen's	Aishley & Sam Bell Docherty	Skool of Street
Brian Morrison	BizSocial Networking	Nigel Kilgallon	Pleasure Beach
Kila Redfearn	Blue Skies	Mike Berry	Consultant
Effie Sharp	Randstad Education	David Galvin	Blackpool Housing Co
Nicole Billington	Airport EZ	Emily Dixon	Upskilling Lancashire
Andrew Grice	Fylde Wealth Management	Jake Adams	Mina Group
Phil Owen	Consultant	Sean Gibbs, David Edwards	Harrison Drury
Bev Wood	BWD Design	Peter Hargreaves	Blackpool Tech Hub
Amanda Westgate	Big Impact Communications	John & Jaki Armstrong	Majestic N-W
Johnathon Townsend	Lloyds Banking	Angie Hesketh	DWP
Shannon Rees	DWP	Spencer Phillips, Nigel Patterson	Showtown
David Jones	Thirty30Media	Steve Burns	Think Forward
Nicola Stott	Royal Hotels Group	Mark Croasdale	Whitehead & Howarth
Nicola Atanassova	VisitBlackpool	Pam Isherwood	Renaissance
Dave Hudson, Lisa Harding	ITS	Stephen Daniels	Quicklaunch UK
Ian White	StayBlackpool/Chorlton Hotel	Roger Mellor	Glasdon
Paul Smith, Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Pat Naylor	Homestart
Mike Lovell	Chameleon Finance	Sham Singha	Silicon Talent
Paul Crossley	Kenrick & Co	John Barnett	Stardream
Craig Evans, Paul Simpson	Voiteq UK	Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co
Yvonne Fenney	Opening Doors 4 U	Sam Ashcroft	Headway
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics	Colm Healy	Wyre Council
Emma Threlfall	Houndshill	John Child	Sandcastle Waterpark
Paul Best, Lindsay Campbell, Paul Rowley	Campbell & Rowley	Kelsie May, Charlotte Davies, Martha Jones	Art B&B
John Holmes	Swallows	Tom Metcalf	Little Touches
Steve Williams	Force Technology	Simon Smith	Natwest
Aimi O'Donnell	Positive Steps	Rob Street, Reece Bywater	Booker Blackpool
Stephen Booth	CCATS	Ian Mallam	Digitav
Colin Taylor	Lights Ambassador	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Greg Myerscough	RBS	Paul Dewick Day	Bella Vista Lodge
Terry Hodgkinson	Blackpool Carers	Michael Williams	Winter Gardens
Emma Purdon, Paul Morris	Cordant People	David Turner, David Smith	Smith's Hire
Stacie Daniel, Michelle Robinson	Ideal 4 Finance	Jo Duff	Marks & Spencer
Duncan Wilding	PHX Training	Michael Dugdale	Trident Utilities
Katrina Copsey	Coca Cola	Alex Mcntyre	Property Scene
Tracey Clarke, Adam Carter	Scanlite	Janette Yates	Central Property Management
Mairead Platt	Brabners	James Laughland	Assets UK
Phillip Parramore	Guidedotyou	Heather Morrow, Rachel Sykes	Showtown
Maggie D'Araujo, Simon Morris	The Berkeley Apartments	Dave Preston	Offigo
Johanne Agnola	UCLAN	Amanda Crossley	Concierge Ninja
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design	Stefan Cardwell	Key
Les Ellarby-Blunt	Chamber of Commerce	Nichola Howard	Launch Events N-w
Andrew Wareing, Andy Atkinson	Voucher Packs	Frank Heald	Consultant
Elaine Smith	Blackpool Civic Trust	Peter Jefferson	Visionistic
James Dunn	Data Bricks	Mark Prince	Marksafety
Daniel Stott	Network Connect	Tom Bevan, Simon Lewis	Bevan & Black
David & Lyndsey Kaye	Abelglass	Janet Atkins	Trinity Hospice
Michelle Smith	Quiet Leaders	Philip O'Brien	Mount View Estates
Mick Grewcock	Burbage Group	Paul Isherwood	Stressbuster Works
Shane Grindey	Blackpool Transport Services	Aileen Ames	Higher Aims
Sean McGinty, Mike Bentley	Bentley McGinty	Donna Fiorello, Seb Waldron	LT Systems
Owain Roberts	Northern Rail	Clare Taylor	Duxbury Commercial
Simon Coxhill	Chadwicks	Wendy Hope	Stanley House
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose	Norry Ascroft	Entertainer/Life Coach
Rory Southworth	Boost Lancashire	Julia Eastwood	Artisan Tiles
Tim Gavell	The Gazette	Paul Hardy, Gillian Seville	Napthens
Tom Mercer, Paul Drury	Handelsbanken	Mike Hardaker	Moore & Smalley
Matthew Edwards, Alistair Cave	Mort & Pal Video Production	Laura Couch	Global
Coral Horn, Lizzie Beckford	Pink Link	Hannah Neil	Blackpool Piers Co
Andy Percival	Blackpool Allotments	Ian Hooper	GB Music Events
Katherine O'Connor	Cities & Local Growth Unit	Daryl Platt, Linda Dean	Blackpool & The Fylde College
Carol Petza	Carlton Hotel	Johanna Carter, Abigail Ankers	Always Ear
Melanie Whitehead	Electric Sunshine Project	Geoff Moore	Canberra Hotel
Helen Livesey	Business Clinic	Robert Morland, Leigh Tregonning	Barclays
Scott Leadbetter	Cybevelo	Mike Rawcliffe	PNG Digital
Colin Johnston	Grand Theatre	Philip Helm	Tyson Construction
Darren Foy	Aiming Higher	Ben Mansford, Linton Brown	Blackpool FC

OBSERVERS/GUESTS/HOSTS			
Steve Thompson, Philip Welsh	Blackpool Council	Mark Windows, Vanda de Freitas	Blackpool Council
Nick Gerrard, Peter Legg, David Slater	Blackpool Council	Rebecca Sandford-Jones, Kim Wood	Blackpool Council
APOLOGIES			
Anthony Brookes	CLVR Money	Lee Ferguson	Stonegate Pubs
Rob Green	Airport EZ	Hamish Hamilton	Vistage
Linda Halliwell	Village Hotel	Fiona Reid	Butterworth's Solicitors
Ron Bell	Abbey Bell	Damian Broughton	Danbro
Debbie Topping	DT Information Governance	Mike Hartley	D Hollowell & Sons
Jill Gray, Tina Cooper	Blackpool Sixth	Mark Nelson	MaCaw Project
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council	Jane Hugo	Streetlife
Chris Calvert	Rushtons	Andy Higgins	Postal Data Systems
Chris Green	Santander	Paul Stephens	S Class Cars
Chris Maine	DPA Packaging	Peter Bennett	Assess Design Develop
Steph Evans	Imperial Hotel	Matthew Burrows	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals
Stuart Moorhouse	Stuart Jackson Bacon	Paul Friday, Andy Green	Future Focus Energy
David Worsfold	The Hive	Krisztina Szigeti	Happy Creative
Frances Thorpe	Welcome Deaf Awareness	Mike Coole	Groundwork
Andy Mellor	Primary Futures	Keith Blackburn	Clifton Buying Group
Steven Gill	Fylde Promotional Merchandise	Lewis Broley	Growth Company

### 1. Welcome and apologies

At the start of the meeting, a minute's silence was held in memory of Richard Lefton, a long-standing member of the business community who had traded in Blackpool town centre for many years and who had died suddenly earlier in the month.

Martin Long (chair) welcomed members and guests to the meeting. It was noted that there was a record attendance of around 180 guests.

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

Nothing to report.

### 3. Welcome to Blackpool Football Club

Ben Mansford, chief executive of Blackpool FC, welcomed guests to the club and gave a brief update on the progress that had been made on and off the field since Simon Sadler took over the club last year.

### 4. Fylde Coast Legacies

Kila Redfearn led a presentation on behalf of four charities: Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, Blackpool Carers Centre, Swallows and Streetlife. She said the "Leave It Local" initiative was aimed at encouraging people to leave a legacy donation to charities in their wills. Kila said that even 1% would make a significant difference to the participating charities. For further details, email:

Blue Skies: [kila.redfearn@nhs.net](mailto:kila.redfearn@nhs.net)

Blackpool Carers: [Terry.Hodkinson@blackpoolcarers.org](mailto:Terry.Hodkinson@blackpoolcarers.org)

Streetlife: [fran@wearestreetlife.org](mailto:fran@wearestreetlife.org)

Swallows: [Chris@theswallows.org.uk](mailto:Chris@theswallows.org.uk)

### 5. Blackpool Tech Hub

Peter Hargreaves gave a presentation on the Blackpool Tech Hub, a Community Interest Company supporting the Blackpool Pride Of Place initiative. Its vision is to create a self-sustaining cluster of tech companies in Blackpool and Fylde.

He said there were five core activities:

- Developing a community of tech professionals
- Matching talent with businesses
- Hosting tech events
- Mentoring entrepreneurs
- Retaining graduates and professionals

In addition, the hub would promote incubators and co-working spaces; enable start-ups and scale-up businesses; and co-ordinate inward investment.

Sham Singha (Silicon Talent) then talked about the talent and podcast part of the initiative. He said there had been exponential growth in podcast content over blogs. The hub was able to provide businesses with advice on hiring and also provide a free podcast to host/embed on their websites.

For more information, go to: [www.blackpooltechhub.com](http://www.blackpooltechhub.com)

The presentation can be viewed at [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) under Reports/Presentations

## **6. Digitav: Streamlining Business Processes**

Mike Clewlow and Ian Mallam gave a presentation on their Blackpool-based software business which provides bespoke operating systems for businesses.

They gave examples of how they had managed to dramatically streamline business processes for local businesses including the staging of the ballroom dance championships at the Winter Gardens.

The presentation can be viewed at [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) under Reports/Presentations

## **7. Showtown**

Heather Morrow and Rachel Sykes gave a presentation on Showtown, the planned new museum of fun and entertainment.

The interactive museum will be located on the first floor of the Sands Venue Resort Hotel, currently under construction on the Promenade. Due to open in 2021, Showtown will celebrate Blackpool's story as the UK's most popular seaside destination and home of light entertainment.

It will serve as a paid-for visitor attraction in the tourism economy with an estimated 300,000 visitors per year but will also offer free admission to Blackpool residents.

It is anticipated that it will create 40 full-time jobs and 20 training places for local people. Showtown will also be open for use as a corporate hospitality venue.

Further information at [www.showtownblackpool.co.uk](http://www.showtownblackpool.co.uk)

The presentation can be viewed at [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) under Reports/Presentations

## **8. Introduction to Headway**

Sam Ashcroft showed the group a short video illustrating the work undertaken by the Headway charity in supporting brain injury survivors, their families and carers across the Fylde Coast.

Further details at: [www.headwayblackpool.co.uk](http://www.headwayblackpool.co.uk)

## **9. Music Run 2020**

Luke Taylor presented on the next Music Run event due to be held on Sunday 26 July on the Promenade. He said the fun run was now in its third year and was showing strong growth in numbers of participants.

He said that last year's event also included the introduction of a "Run Rewards" scheme which offered participants discounted offers at businesses throughout the town, encouraging visitors to stay in Blackpool after the event.

Luke outlined various ways in which local businesses could support the event including sponsorship opportunities, providing volunteers, participating in the Run Rewards scheme and offering discounted accommodation to runners.

The presentation can be viewed at [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) under Reports/Presentations

**10. Business Partnerships Report**

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) drew the group's attention to the 2020 Switch-On ballot which is now open for applications. He said the event would be held on the Tower Festival Headland on the night of Friday 4 September. He then showed the group a short video showing the highlights of last year's Switch-On.

He also gave an update on the Northern Rail situation, stating that the operations would be moved into Government control from March 1. He said he would seek an update on the implications of that in time for the next meeting.

**11. Any Other Business**

Nothing further to report.

**12. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Scheduled for 7.30am (breakfast) for 8.30am (meeting) on Friday 27 March at The Boulevard Hotel, Blackpool Pleasure Beach. Full joining details to follow.