



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2018 AT PLEASURE BEACH BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthen's	Johnathon Townsend	Lloyds
Dan Dalton	Brightprint, Music & Mayhem	Victoria Andrews	Blackpool Grand Hotel
Mark Nelson, Dr Karl Williams	UCLAN	Chris Oxley	Danbro
Andrea Wallace	Wyre Council	Danny Prince	Prince Plumbing
Sue Howarth	Family Business Network	Janet Doolan, Mandie Mansfield Clark	Growth Lancashire
Toby Simpson	Coffeebrook	Belinda Shore	Santander
David Cam	Under Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster	Katie Ryland, Wendy Jones	Atlas
Alex McIntyre	Property Scene	Louise Logan	Career Ready
Terry Hodkinson	Blackpool Carers	Tina Cooper	Blackpool Sixth
Ron Bell	Abbey Bell	Grahame Latus	Enterprise Answers
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics	Shirley Hunt	Cranstone Hotel
Paul Wilcock	Montpelier Group	Tracey Clarke	Toyland
Simon Smith	Natwest	Marie Bywater, Mike Sheedy	Greggs
Yasmin Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co	Dave Preston	Offigo
Steve Burns	Think Forward	Paul Isherwood	Gamble Aware
Shane Grindey	Blackpool Transport	Pam Isherwood	Renaissance
Andrew Woolley	Chamber of Commerce	Ian Mallam	Digitav
Andy Charles	Business In The Community	Lee Burrell	Blackpool Housing Co
John & Jaki Armstrong	Majestic N-W	Phillip Parramore	Guidedotyou
Stacey deRome, Lynsey Brown	Hampton by Hilton	Andy Higgins	Postal & Data Systems
Mark Ferris, John Scott	Contract Supplies Ltd	Yusuf Musa	Enterprise 4 All
Nicola Stott	Viva	Carleigh Wilson	Abode Building Services
Tony and Georgina Rayner	Abbey Telecom	Tom Metcalf	Little Touches
Kila Redfearn	Blue Skies	Mike Hardaker	Moore & Smalley
Geoff Moore	Canberra Hotel	Phil McVan	iEnergy Insights
Sarah Worthington, Kathryn Higgins	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Richard Baguley	GDR Public Relations
Laura Weldon	Studio LWD	Phil Holmes	Lightpool Festival
Peter Jefferson	Visionistic	Anthony Thackray	AGT
Helen Atkinson, Sue Williams	Aspired Futures	Pearl Mina	PR Consultant
Andrew Wareing, Andy Atkinson	Voucher Packs	Mandy Tythe-McCallum	VisitBlackpool
Rachel Riches	The Village	Steve Whitehouse	FTE
John Barnett	The Wave	Chris Aiken-Graham	FSB
Krisztina Szigeti	Happy Creative	Simon Smith	Delphi Medical
Paul Hardy, Claire Hynes	Napthens	Nigel Patterson	Blackpool Museum
Julia Blackett	Sainsburys	Tim Gavell	The Gazette
Dan O'Connor, Conner Romain	World 360	Norry Ascroft	Entertainer/Consultant
Yvonne Cooper, Angie Hesketh	DWP	Mark Croasdale	Whitehead & Howarth
Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla	Linda Palentine	UCLAN
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design	Frances Thorpe	Welcome Deaf Awareness
Robert Owen	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Rick Bryan	BFC Community Trust
Samantha Bell, Aishley Docherty	Skool of Street	Chris Maine	DPA Packaging
Sam Simpson	Love Dancing	Carlo Petza, Andrew Lester	Carlton Hotel
Sharon Watts	Winstons	Colin Taylor	Lights Ambassador
Andrea Pankiw	Brain Tumour Research	Joanne Etherington	Lloyds
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Philip Welsh, Peter Legg,	Blackpool Council	Nick Gerrard, Heather Morrow	Blackpool Council
David Slater, Carolyn Primett	Blackpool Council	Judith Mills, John Hawkin	Blackpool Council
APOLOGIES			
Bev Robinson	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Rebecca Murdoch	Brambles & Co
Rob Green	Airport Enterprise Zone	Fiona Reid	Butterworth's Solicitors
Neil Jack, Peter Legg, Vanda de Freitas	Blackpool Council	Helen Livesey	The Business Clinic
Pam Swain	British Association of Dental Nurses	Steve Williams	Force Technology
Mike Lovell	Chameleon Finance	Andy Mellor	Primary Futures
Chris Curtis	The Swallows	Tom Mercer	Handelsbanken
Wendy Harrison	Café Fresch	Andrew Jackson, Roger Mellor	Glasdon
Philip Owen	Consultant	Helen and Damian Broughton	Danbro
Darren Webster	Blackpool Zoo	Joe Best	EW Support
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose	Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services
Peter Bennett	Assess Design Develop	Zoe Fleming	Roland Robinson Fenton
Greg Myerscough	RBS	Kristen Durose	Red Star Wealth
Stephen Godfrey	UK Fujitsu	Jane Hugo	Street Life
Mick Grewcock	Burbage Group	David Worsfold	The Hive
Viv Cuthill	Coaching, Facilitation & Research	Paul Friday, Andy Green	Future Focus Energy
Rob Moreland	Barclays	Gareth Chadwick	Chadwick's Insurance
Andrew Heydeman	Inspira	Mike Pickthall	Pinpoint Management Consultants
Elaine Smith	Civic Trust	Michael Muschamp	Rushton's
Sham Sangha, Jack Sangha	Silicon Talent	John Child	Sandcastle
Katherine O'Connor	Northern Powerhouse	Chris Hibbert	Henco
Ian White	Chorlton Hotel	Richard Burnett	AWOL TV

1. Welcome and apologies

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

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

Minutes noted, no matters arising.

3. Welcome To The Pleasure Beach

Robert Owen (Pleasure Beach) welcomed the group and outlined some of the investment that had been made in 2018 in the form of the new ICON rollercoaster and the new hotel currently under construction and due to open in 2019. He said that ICON had recently won a European Star Award after being named as one of the best rollercoasters. He invited members of the group to ride ICON at the end of the meeting.

Martin Long (chair) congratulated Robert on completing a recent charity bike ride from London to Paris.

4. Family Business Network

Sue Howorth gave the group an insight into the aims and objectives of the Family Business Network, which now has branches across the north of England including Lancashire. She said it was particularly appropriate to be presenting at Pleasure Beach, one of the longest-standing and best-known family businesses in the county.

She said the network activities included events, insight sessions, topical discussions, mentoring and advisory support.

For further details, contact sue@fambiznet.co.uk

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

5. Supporting Young Talent

Simon Smith (Delphi Medical) gave a presentation on an extremely talented young ice skater, Lilly May Smith, who has already made the GB squad at the age of eight.

He described how her skill, dedication, hard work and competitive spirit had helped her to achieve.

He said that the achievements and ambitions of young people like Lilly should be supported because they helped offset the negative perceptions of children and young people in Blackpool.

He said there were a number of ways to help aspiring youngsters such as the establishment of a foundation or scholarship fund; provision of free or cheap access to sports arenas; and individual sponsorship agreements.

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

6. Green & Blue Infrastructure

John Hawkin (Blackpool Council) and Judith Mills (Public Health) gave an insight into how businesses can assist with a green and blue infrastructure strategy in Blackpool.

They described a number of key objectives within the strategy including:

❖ Transforming housing quality

New and improved parks and creative greening initiatives in parts of the borough to make housing better for family life.

❖ Doubling tree canopy

Blackpool has the fewest trees of any English town – create a legacy for future generations, starting with planting 10,000 trees in the next 10 years.

❖ Creating a greener centre

As the town centre and resort core are regenerated, create new pocket parks and much-enhanced public realm.

❖ Celebrating Stanley Park

Celebrate Stanley Park's status as the best park in the UK.

❖ Taking health seriously

Help at least 5,000 more local people each week enjoy exercise at our parks, beaches and encourage Forest Schools, Green Gyms and nature-based prescriptions.

❖ Making it easy to get outdoors

Establish a "Blackpool Activity Trail", signpost our green spaces better and remind everyone we are a start point for national coastal and Trans Pennine walking and cycling tours.

❖ Keeping it down to earth

Blackpool has a great backbone of volunteers and can always call on help from businesses, "Blackpool-exiles" and loyal holiday-makers with an affinity for the town. Local park friends, tree wardens, volunteer rangers and councillors are key to delivering and maintaining green and blue infrastructure.

❖ Thinking for the Future

Ensure Green and Blue Infrastructure forms part of all our decision-making and supports the future proofing of the town.

There was widespread support among BBLG members for the plans and particularly for the creation of tree-lined boulevards within the town centre. For full details of the presentation go to www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations

7. MaCaW Project

Dr Karl Williams (UCLAN) gave a presentation on how the university's Centre For Waste Management helps businesses to increase efficiency, productivity and also improve environmental performance by managing energy consumption, carbon emissions and use of renewable energy.

He outlined the Making Carbon Work (MaCaW) programme which provides match-funded grants of up to £8k for SMEs to purchase carbon-reducing technologies.

To be eligible for the programme, businesses have to be based in Lancashire and have less than 250 employees.

He gave examples of a number of businesses/organisations which had benefited from the programme including a medium-sized hotel which had invested £1400 in upgrading lights to LEDs and was saving £1500 a year as a result.

For full details of the MaCaW programme, you can view Karl's presentation on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

8. Universal Credit

Angie Hesketh and Yvonne Cooper (DWP) gave the group a presentation on the roll-out of Universal Credit which will be introduced across the Fylde Coast on December 5.

They described how the introduction of Universal Credit would assist employers by providing a more flexible workforce. They outlined the following benefits to business:

- ❖ It will allow people to keep more of their money as they increase their hours of work
- ❖ It will end the 16-hour rule so staff can increase their hours without worrying about losing their benefits
- ❖ More generous childcare support will be available to help people move into work and increase their hours
- ❖ There will be the opportunity to use existing part-time staff for overtime and extra shifts
- ❖ There will be access to a wider pool of better-prepared applicants.

Some members of the group expressed concern whether people would be able to manage their finances following the introduction of Universal Credit. It was emphasised that there would be budget management sessions for recipients. The full Universal Credit presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

9. Love Dancing

Sam Simpson gave the group an interactive presentation on how she uses dance for health and wellbeing. She presented a range of activities including workshops and open dance sessions at iconic outdoor locations such as the Comedy Carpet.

Sam outlined some of the health benefits that could be accrued through dance including relieving stress and tension, improving self-esteem and confidence as well as using it as a fun source of exercise.

She said she worked with a wide range of people including children with special educational needs; dementia sufferers; adults with learning disabilities and recovering addicts.

Sam's presentation, including links to one of her You Tube films, can be viewed on the www.bblg.co.uk website under Reports/Presentations.

10. Business Partnerships Report

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) highlighted a number of items:

Lightpool Festival: Carolyn Primett drew the group's attention to the forthcoming Lightpool Festival, the associated NESTA conference and the Light Odyssey collaboration with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra which will be held at the Empress Ballroom on October 18.

Grayson Perry Exhibition: PW reminded the group that a Grayson Perry exhibition had just opened at the Grundy Art Gallery in Blackpool. He said it was a real coup for an exhibition of this quality to be in Blackpool and he encouraged members to go and see the exhibition before it closes on December 15.

Responsible Business Network: Andy Charles (Business In The Community) reported on the launch of this Fylde Coast network, which will take place at the Pavilion Theatre in the Winter Gardens at 7.30am on Monday 8 October. All businesses are welcome. To attend, contact michelle.walker@bitc.org.uk

Switch-On Film: PW showed the group the film that had been produced showcasing the 2018 Switch-On celebration.

11. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the Pleasure Beach for hosting the meeting and the various speakers for their contributions.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30am for 8.30am on Friday 30 November, 2018, at The Imperial Hotel, North Promenade, Blackpool.