



## BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

### NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MAY 30 at NUMBER ONE BICKERSTAFFE SQUARE

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
<b>ATTENDEES</b>			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthens	Becky Wells, Vicky Wells	One Blackpool
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design/Wyred Up	Michael Williams, Anthony Williams, Kila Redfearn	Winter Gardens
Vicky Reynolds	Ashworth Treasure	Justin Allitt	JD Allitt
Joe Boniface	Boniface Architects	Jeremy Smith	Lytham Coffee
Alex McIntyre	Property Scene	Palmira Stafford	Pink Link
Steve Pye	3e partnership	Graham Wood	Consultant
Philip Owen	Barclays	Sean Crofts	Premiere Recruitment
Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics	John Child, Jane Kelly	Sandcastle Waterpark
Sarah Rhodes	Rhodes Media	Caryn Steele	Balloonatics
Michael Trainor	Left Coast	Michelle Jackson	Jackson Coaches
Michelle Riley	Blackpool & The Fylde College	Joanna Kay	Digital Guys
Karen Lambert, Simon Brooke	Happy Creative	Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla Resources
Debbs Lancelott	Hounds Hill	Gill Bean	JobCentre Plus
Roger Mellor, Andrew Jackson	Glasdon	Ian Collins	Sainsbury's
Simon Holden	Natwest	Janine Marshall, Mina Scott	Genting Casino
Sean Egan	DES Electricals	Damien Gibbs	Butson Blofeld
Clare Taylor	Duxburys Commercials	Simon Lyons	Errigal Developments
Philip Helm, Paul Whelan	Tyson Construction	Mark Porter	Longfellows
Paul Wilcock	Montpelier Group	Andy Barton	Muse
John Barnett	Stardream/The Wave	Stuart Livesey	Consultant
Gary Smith	A4e	Ben Govier	BDA Recruitment
Pete Watson	G Casino	Tom Swire	Spotless UK
Colin Johnston, Ruth Eastwood	Grand Theatre	Ian Fogg	The Prince's Charities
Linda Alexander	Sophisticated Events	Mick Grewcock	Burbage Holiday Group
Steve Gill, Graham Arnold	Fylde Promotional Merchandise	Andy Fraser	Trade Granite and Kitchens
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose	Annie Ogilvie	Blackpool Transport
Michelle Smith	Blackpool Carers	Andy Higgins	The Mailing Room
Chris Maine	Direct Paper Agents	Robin Ross	Sand, Sea and Spray
Katy Mace	Ibis Hotels	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Amanda Pickup	Blackpool Sixth	Mark Yates	Brooks Collectables
Ryan Stocks	Aldrock Surveyors	Ruth Patton	Pattons Community
Kate Shane	Blackpool Tower	Peter Lea	S Class Cars
Rob Walker	Yes Magazine	Alison Gilmore	The Imperial
Pauline Lai	The Mandarin	Andy Dobson	Atlas Sailing
Carmen Conquer, Helen Atkinson	Aspired Futures	Vito Cinardi	Risk Intel
Rob Knighton	Eclipse	Norrie Ascroft	Entertainer
David Cam	Consultant	David Jones	30 Thirty Media
<b>OBSERVERS/GUESTS</b>			
Alan Cavill, Philip Welsh, Jenny Ingle, David Slater, Lesley Crowe	Blackpool Council		
<b>APOLOGIES</b>			
Nick Taylor	The Hilton	Michael Hyman	Leonard Dews
Louise Logan	Blackpool Sixth	Mike Hardaker	Moore and Smalley
Bev Wood	BWD Design	Sally Snowdon	Letting Solutions
Philip Crowther	Helms Briscoe	Tony Morgan	Superfast Lancashire
David Gore	Illuminasia	Deborah Parker	Progress Employment Support
Fiona Reid	Ascroft Whiteside	Caroline Anchor	First Group
Neil Jack, Peter Legg	Blackpool Council	Cath Stewart	Community Foundation
Lindsay Campbell	Rowleys	Margaret Wilson	Supported Moves
Neil Sutch	RBS	Susan Bamber	De Vere Hotel
Chris Hibbert	Henco	Stephen Thorpe	CME Medical
David Houston	Trinity	Cameron Scott	Cam Scott Leisure
Neil Foulkes	HSBC	Shirley Hunt	Cranstone Hotel
Kristen Durose	Red Star Wealth	Steve Whitehouse	FTS
Helen and Damian Broughton	Danbro	Eileen Ormand	Town Centre BID
Darren Webster	Blackpool Zoo	Richard Lefton	Lefton Group
Robert Owen	Pleasure Beach	Paul Crossley	Kenrick and Co
David Hardy	Champion Group	Dale Lawrenson	Natwest
Wendy Swift	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals	Jayne Hart	Harts Amusements
Wayne Smith	Northern Rail	John Magee	Freeport
Rob Green	Economic Development Co	Claire Smith	Number One Hotels

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Martin Long welcomed the group to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to new members and guests.

Martin reported at the start of the meeting that Steve Weaver, the former Chief Executive of Blackpool Council, had been killed in a cycling accident in France. He praised Steve for his visionary work in Blackpool's regeneration and said he had been a great supporter of the BBLG since its inception. He said that the group's condolences would be forwarded to his family.

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

The notes of the meeting held on March 28 were agreed as a correct record.

**Boarded Up Hotels**

Philip Welsh (Blackpool Council) said that some progress had been made in tracing owners of vacant/derelict hotels on parts of South Beach. He said that wherever possible owners were being encouraged to carry out works under their own volition, otherwise there was a threat of enforcement action being taken against them. It was hoped that this approach would ensure that there were significant cosmetic improvements to the area prior to the start of the summer season.

**3. Introduction To Central Business District**

Andy Barton (Muse Developments) welcomed the BBLG to the Bickerstaffe Square office building, part of the £220m Talbot Gateway Central Business District regeneration scheme.

He said that this first phase also included a new Sainsbury's supermarket, the refurbishment of the Talbot Road multi-storey car park and a new highways layout. He said that the office building had been fitted out to an exceptionally high standard and it was anticipated that Blackpool Council's staff would be relocated into the building from outlying offices by August.

He said that one of the retail units on the ground floor of the offices had been let and discussions were at an advanced stage for other units.

It was envisaged that there would be future phases of the development, including hotels and further commercial development.

**4. Fair Trade, Blackpool**

Ian Collins (Sainsbury's) and Jenny Ingle (Blackpool Council) gave a presentation on the ambition to make Blackpool a designated Fair Trade town.

It was noted that there were over 1,000 Fair Trade towns and cities across the world, with Garstang being the closest one to Blackpool.

The presentation outlined the five steps that would be required to gain Fair Trade status for Blackpool. A copy of the presentation containing this and other detail, together with information about how local businesses can help Blackpool to achieve the designation, can be found at [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) under the Reports/Publications section.

**5. Introduction to LeftCoast**

Michael Trainor, Creative Director, gave an introduction to LeftCoast, which has been established through the Blackpool and Wyre Creative People and Places Programme. The programme is being funded by Arts Council England and delivered in partnership with Blackpool and Wyre Councils, Merlin and The Grand Theatre.

Michael outlined some of the various events and initiatives that are being undertaken by LeftCoast including Blam!, an innovative production that will be staged at The Grand in August.

Further information on LeftCoast can be found at [www.leftcoast.org.uk](http://www.leftcoast.org.uk)

**6. Blackpool Unlimited – New Look Website**

David Slater (Blackpool Council) and Simon Brooke (Happy Creative) gave a presentation on the new-look BlackpoolUnlimited business support website which has been developed by Happy Creative on behalf of Blackpool Council's economic development department.

This includes a wealth of business support advice and also an extensive news section featuring business success stories. Any business with items to be contributed to this news section should contact [Lesley.crowe@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.crowe@blackpool.gov.uk)

The new website can be viewed at [www.blackpoolunlimited.com](http://www.blackpoolunlimited.com)

**7. One Blackpool – Opportunities For Business**

Vicky Wells, Becky Wells (One Blackpool) and Rob Walker (Yes Magazine) gave a combined presentation on the various ways in which the One Blackpool organisation can bring benefits to local businesses.

A full copy of their presentation can be found on the [www.bblg.co.uk](http://www.bblg.co.uk) website under the Reports/Publications section. The presentation includes full details of how to contact the One Blackpool organisation for further information.

**8. Business Partnerships Report**

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

**Switch On Festival:** Noted that the Sunday night line-up for the festival had now been confirmed with Rebecca Ferguson headlining the show, supported by Atomic Kitten, Liberty X, Damage and 911.

**MAMMA MIA! Box Office:** Noted that this was now in place on the Tower Festival Headlands and would begin trading over the following weekend.

**Weekend Parking Offers:** He drew the group's attention to the £3 a day parking offer that was to be introduced across various Council-run car parks during the early summer months. He said this was part of a longer-term strategy to make the town's car parks more "user friendly".

**Direct London Rail Services:** He also drew the group's attention to the potential reinstatement of the Blackpool to London rail services. He said that the group's persistence in lobbying for this reinstatement had proved extremely helpful.

**9. Any Other Business**

The chair thanked Blackpool Council for allowing the usage of its new offices, Muse for providing the breakfast and the various speakers who presented at the meeting.

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

Next meeting scheduled for **7.45am for 8.30am, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July at the Winter Gardens.** Parking arrangements to be confirmed.