



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2017 AT THE PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthen's	John Barnett	Stardream/Radio Wave
Damien Broughton, Chris Oxley	Danbro	David Brennand, Laurance Hancock	The Boathouse Project
Alison Paterson, Andy Hygate	Pleasure Beach	Ruth Connor, Tony Attard	Marketing Lancashire
Chris Maine	DPA Packaging	Jonathan Cooke	Network Rail
Philip Owen	Consultant	Mark Hickey	Houndhill Shopping Centre
Nicola Atanassova	Visit Blackpool	Frances Thorpe	Fylde Coast Deaf Awareness
Amanda Westgate	Big Impact	Tony Raynor	Abbey Telecom
Kim Heubner	Property Search Group	Krisztina Szigeti	Happy Creative
Catherine Best	Best At Solutions	Chris Hibbert	Henco
Michelle Riley	Illuminate Training Solutions	Kerry Higginson	GP Strategies
Barry Howard	McDonalds UK	Major Marc Stevenson	Duke of Lancaster's Regiment
Helen Livesey, Carmen Parkinson	The Business Clinic	Samantha Bell, Aishley Doherty	Skool of Street
Chris Calvert	Rushtons Accountants	Dave Preston	Offigo
Shirley Hunt	Cranstone	Andrew Heydeman	Inspira
Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design	Norry Ascroft	Consultant/Entertainer
Mark Croasdale	Whitehead & Howarth	Kerian Barnes	Starboard Hotels
Steve Singleton	Cuadrilla	David Worsfold	IAWIA
Lindsay Campbell	Campbell Rowley	Ashley Moore	Event Assembly
Deb Hewitt	Pier Support	Will Hill	Click Sway
Richard Champion, Matt Lonsdale	Property Investment Network	Geoff Moore	Canberra Hotel
Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co	Joe Best	Education/Workforce Support Solutions
Nigel Leech	Home Comfort Services	Peter Lui	Luxsun/Chinese Community Asscn
David Cam	Under Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster	Chris Worden	ABR Property Investments
Jill Gray, Tina Cooper	Blackpool Sixth	Colin Johnston	Grand Theatre
Kila Redfean	Blue Skies	Steve Whitehouse	FTS
Emily Hawkins, Ruth Slater	UCLAN	Lee Bloomberg	Leith Planning
Johnathon Townsend	Lloyds Banking	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Mike Hardaker	Moore & Smalley	Peter Gerring	Northern Rail
David Houston	Trinity Hospice	Kimberley Barrett-St.Vall, Paul Hardy	Napthens
John and Jaki Armstrong	Majestic N-W	Simon Booth	Astute Motoring
Barrie Thompson, Mau Liu	China UK Business Centre	Colin Taylor	Lights Ambassador
Andy Atkinson	Voucher Packs	James Evans, Chris Shaw	High Level Specialists
Clare Taylor	Duxbury Commercial	Graham Wood	Leisure Jobs
Janine Marshall	Genting Casino	Stuart Livesey, John Darbyshire	Consultants
Geoff Mason	Chamber of Commerce	Paul Friday, Andy Green	Future Focus Energy
Michael Pickthall	Pinpoint Consultants	David Ravenscroft	Property Investment Network
Steve Burns	Think Forward	Chris Aiken Graham	FSB
Tony Carr	Social Enterprise Solutions	Yusuf Musa	Enterprise 4 All
Tom Metcalf	Little Touches	John Child	Sandcastle Waterpark
Jenny Hardman	Hardman McNeal	James Bellamy	Seafield Chips
Tom Willcox	Willcox PR	Julie Casson	Jobcentre Plus
Louise Cardwell, Brian Wallis	Shorrock Trichem	Paul Crossley	Kenrick & Co
Cassie Troughton	Global Media	Elaine Smith	Stanley Park Visitor Centre
Robin Ross	Sand Sea & Spray	Julie Holland	Viva Blackpool
Catherine Stringer	Chamber of Commerce	Annie Ogilvie	Blackpool Transport Services
Paul Isherwood	Stressbuster works		
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Philip Welsh	Blackpool Council	David Slater	Blackpool Council
APOLOGIES			
Michael Muschamp	Rushton's Accountants	Andrew Mellor	Primary Futures
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council	Greg Myerscough	RBS
Louise Logan	Career Ready	Pam Swain	British Asscn of Dental Nurses
Debbs Lancelott	Houndhill	Richard Lefton	The Lefton Group
Janet Atkins	Trinity	Rob Green	Blackpool Council
Ron Bell	Abbey Bell Consultants	Jonathan Barnes	Santander
Zoe Fleming, Rob Evans	Roland Robinson & Fenton	Denise Marsden	Fylde Recruitment
Nicola Spencer	M&S Outlet	Robert Grace	Natwest
Simon Smith	Natwest	Lindsay Taylor Heath	Santander
Roger Mellor	Glasdon	Simon Coxhill	Chadwicks
Peter Legg	Blackpool Council	Alex McIntyre	The Property Scene
Steve Gill	Fylde Promotional Merchandise	Duncan Hodgson	Freelance Communications
Joseph Boniface	Boniface Architects	Jane Hugo	Streetlife
Viv Cuthill	Coaching, Facilitation and Research	Paul Mathison	Create Construction
Ian Mallam	Digitav	David Hoyle	Happy Days Childcare
Sarah and Jon Rhodes	Rhodes Media	Paul Stephens	Blackpool Rocks
Fiona Reid	Ascroft Whiteside	Vicki Ivanov	Candy House
Tom Mercer	Handelsbanken	Alison Gilmore	The Imperial
Deborah Terras	UR Potential	Nichola Howard	Launch Events
Sarah Mortimer	Camerados	Mike Lovell	Cheetham Jackson
Bev Wood	BWD Design	Rachel Riches	Village Hotels
Peter Bennett	Assess Design Develop	Nick Gerrard	Blackpool Council

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. Marketing Lancashire Update

After showing a film showcasing Lancashire, Tony Attard (chair) and Ruth Connor (chief executive) gave the group an extended update on the work of the Marketing Lancashire organisation and, in particular, its high degree of focus on inward investment in the county.

They highlighted the fact that Lancashire had four Enterprise Zones (three on the Fylde Coast) and these were an integral part of the marketing effort.

They reported that they were intending to launch a Lancashire Partners programme to help deliver the Lancashire message locally, regionally and nationally. They also reported that they had attended MIPIIM for the first time to showcase the work that is going on within the county. They were planning to visit the next MIPIIM conference at Olympia in London on October 18 and 19.

Martin Long (chair of the BBLG), then hosted a brief Q&A session. The group thanked Ruth and Tony for what was a very powerful film and insightful presentation on all that is being done across the county under the Marketing Lancashire umbrella to help deliver growth and prosperity to the area.

The full presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

4. The Boathouse Project

Laurance Hancock, chief executive of The Boathouse Project, gave the group a presentation on the extensive work that his organisation undertakes in working with young people in Blackpool. He said that they had worked with more than 3,000 young people in the town since being established, with a specific focus on the most deprived wards such as Bloomfield where there was a high percentage of families living below the breadline.

He said the aims of the group – which is the largest charity working with young people in Blackpool - was to bring happiness into the lives of these children.

The full presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

5. Welcome Deaf Awareness

Frances Thorpe gave the group an introduction to the work of the Fylde Coast Deaf Awareness group and also an insight into how deafness can impact on people in the workplace. Describing it as “the invisible disability” she illustrated a number of ways in which it had a negative impact.

By making employees and employers more aware of some of the issues around this, it made the employment of people with such a disability easier.

Frances said the group was still an association but was seeking to get official charitable status.

6. **The Army Reserve**

Major Marc Stevenson (Duke of Lancaster's Regiment) gave a presentation on the mutual benefits of employees becoming Army reservists.

He gave a brief background on the regiment, which is a close combat regiment based in the North West. He said the infantry would be open to females for the first time from 2018.

Major Stevenson said that that civilian reservists were trained in specific skills that could be brought back into the business including discipline, leadership, teamwork, planning and time management. He said there was a wide range of jobs for them to undertake within the regiment.

He said that there were also opportunities for reservists to take part in adventure training. All receive an annual tax-free bounty based on how many years they sign up for.

More details can be found at this link:

<http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/29499.aspx>

7. **Rail Electrification Update**

Jonathan Cooke (Network Rail) and Peter Gerring (Northern Rail) gave a combined presentation on the forthcoming next phase of the Blackpool to Preston rail electrification project.

Jonathan reported that the preparatory work was already underway, but the major works would commence on November 11 when the lines into Blackpool South and Blackpool North would be closed and a replacement bus service put in place.

It is intended that Blackpool South will re-open at the end of January 2018 with Blackpool North remaining closed until March 25.

He said that once the work was completed, the Preston to Blackpool North line would be electrified and new electric trains would be used on services in and out of the resort. Whilst Blackpool South will not be an electrified line, it will benefit from improved signalling to make services more reliable.

Peter Gerring said that an important part of the communications campaign was to convey the message that Blackpool remains open for business during the full blockade.

The rail replacement service is to be provided by Blackpool Transport Services with replacement buses (both express and stopping services) running every 15 minutes. Temporary work was being undertaken around North Station to ensure the bus replacement facility was as customer-friendly as possible.

It was noted that a Station Improvement Fund was also being used to help refresh a number of the stations along the line.

The full presentation can be viewed at www.bblq.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

8. Business Partnerships Report

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting. He highlighted the following items:

The Events Season

He reported that the resort had enjoyed an exceptional events season during the summer with record crowds at the Air Show, a capacity crowd at Switch-On and around 40,000 people attending the three nights of the new Livewire Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend. He said the organisers of Livewire had already confirmed they would be returning in 2018.

He reminded the group that the last of the fireworks events was being staged that night, Friday 29 September.

Charity Event, Danbro

He drew the group's attention to a charity showcase event that is being held at Danbro's headquarters in Lytham on the morning of November 30. Any business interested in attending, please contact lynne.holmes@danbro.co.uk

Cabaret

He advised the group that they could take advantage of a special discount offer for the opening night of Cabaret at the Opera House on the night of Tuesday 3 October.

9. Any Other Business

Offigo

Dave Preston gave a brief update to the group on his new Offigo online platform which had now gone live.

21 Days Exhibition

Robin Ross advised the group of a new exhibition of limited edition screen prints that he had created from his residency in Lisbon. He said the 21 Days exhibition would be staged at Shaw's Art House Café on Clifton Street, Blackpool, from November 10 onwards.

Vote of Thanks

The chair thanked Alison Patterson and the Pleasure Beach team for hosting the event and also the speakers for their presentations.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30am for 8.30am on Friday 24 November at Viva Blackpool.