



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2017 AT THE CARLTON BEST WESTERN, BLACKPOOL

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
ATTENDEES			
Martin Long (chair)	Napthen's	Julie Holland	Viva
Jill Gray, Tina Cooper	Blackpool Sixth	Nichola Howard	Launch Events NW
Wendy Swift, Matthew Burrow	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals	Matt Watts	Lancashire Cheesecake Co
Jane Kelly	Sandcastle Waterpark	Scott Holliday	Tangerines Social Media
Ruth Eastwood, Colin Johnston	Blackpool Grand Theatre	Bev Wood, Jay Patel	BWD Design
Lawrence McBurney	Cassidy & Ashton	Jane Littlewood	Rabbit Design
Louise Logan	Career Ready	Rachel Riches	Village Hotels
Barry Howard	McDonald's UK	Graham Shaw	West Lancs Electrical Contractors
Richard Lefton	The Lefton Group	Kevin Donnelly	XP Web Services
Peter Rawlings	Tower Recruitment	Robert Owen, Lyndsey Brown	Pleasure Beach
Alex McIntyre	Property Scene	David Chapman	Linksgate Leisure
Jonathan Barnes	Santander	Frances Thorpe	Welcome Deaf Awareness
Michael Muschamp	Rushtons Accountants	Jem Stephenson	Computer Troubleshooters
Sarah Mortimer	Camerados	Andy Fairbrother	Blackpool Providers
Mike Lovell	Cheetham Jackson	Michael Cuddy	Michael Cuddy Chartered Surveyors
Lisa Rooney	DWP	Ron Bell	Abbey Bell Consultants
Peter Jefferson	Visionistic Photography	Roger Mellor	Glasdon
Deborah Terras	UR Potential	Carmen Conquer, Helen Atkinson	Aspired Futures
Peter Lui	Luxsun/Blackpool Chinese Community Assn	Annie Ogilvie, Mandy Davies	Blackpool Transport Services
Tom Cobden	Hilton	Helen and Damian Broughton	Danbro
Nicola Atanassova, Mandy Tythe-McCallum	Visit Blackpool	David Cam	Under Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster
Tony Raynor	Abbey Telecom	Tom Neider	Choice Hotels
Dawn Pepper	Genting Casino	Andrew Lester	Carlton Best Western
Sarah Rhodes	Rhodes Media	Mike Hardaker	Moore & Smalley
Dan Whiston, Anne Wade	Clip'n'Climb	Kerian Barnes	Starboard Hotels
Phil Bonell	Training Works	Tom Mercer	Handelsbanken
Colin Taylor	Illuminations Ambassador	Shaun Bennett	Links Signs & Graphics
Rosey Rihanni	RR Legal	Mark Fitzgerald, Ian McGawley	Sainsbury's
Joe Matthews	Baroque	Mark Croasdale	Whitehead and Howarth
Tim Forshaw	Arthur J Gallagher	Frank Heald	Voiteq
Tony Urmsom	Yes Hotels	Grace Bennett	Vista Online
Michelle Smith	Blackpool Carers	Gary Smith	People Plus
Tom Metcalf	Little Touches	Mick Grewcock	Burbage Holiday Group
Steve Burns	Think Forward	Lee Dumbrill	Sands Venue
Simon Brooke, Krisztina Szigeti	Happy Creative	Alison Gilmore	The Imperial
Yusuf Musa	Enterprise 4 All	Bev Robinson	Blackpool & The Fylde College
Jonathan Cooke, Alison Rowley, Mick Butler	Network Rail	Joe Boniface, Nicola Wildman, Emily Kirkham	Joseph Boniface Architects
Helen Sanderson	HS Cleansing	Gemma Gardner, Jenny Hardman	DTH Transition
David Houston	Trinity Hospice	David McGing	Ibis Styles
Ian Wright	Rathbone Training	Graham Wood	Consultant
John and Jaki Armstrong	Majestic North West	Craig Harrop	Northern Rail
Steve Swallow	Portal Security	Paul Harding, Sophie Coane	Napthen's
Andrew Crich	Civil Service Local	Clare Taylor	Duxbury's
Paul Crossley	Kenrick's	Mike Pickthall	Pinpoint Management Consultants
Dave Preston	Offigo	Ashley Dribben	Metcalf Estate Agents
Heather Kennedy	Campbell & Rowley	Sam Oyston	Blackpool FC Hotel
Rob Green	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC	Robert Wynne	West Coast Rock
John Barnett	High Sheriff of Lancashire/Stardream/Radio Wave	Kathryn O'Connor	BIS
Phil McVan	Carbon Bit		
OBSERVERS/GUESTS			
Alan Cavill, Philip Welsh, Peter Legg, David Slater	Blackpool Council	Chelsea Markham, Hannah Fletcher, Josh Worrall, Lucy Churchill	Blackpool Sixth Students
APOLOGIES			
Neil Jack	Blackpool Council	John Keen	RKMS
Susanna Boccaccio	Brilliant Trees Media	Norry Ascroft	Entertainer/Consultant
Lisa Pearson	Merlin Entertainments	David Hoyle	Happy Days Childcare
Michael Hyman	Leonard Dews	Samantha Bell	Skool of Street
Philip Owen	Barclays	Philip Hargreaves	Be Thinking
John Salisbury	RBS	Andrew Wareing	Voucher Packs
David Jones	Thirty30 Media	Steve Singleton, Sam Schofield	Quadrilla
Andy Mellor	Primary Futures	Rob Knighton	Eclipse Developments
Duncan Hodgson	Freelance communications	Coral Horn	Pink Link
Vito Cinardi	Litigation Solutions	Richard Harrison	Geminus Training
Peter Bennett	Assess Design Develop	Zoe Fleming	Roland Robinson, Fentons
Darrel Treece-Birch	St Annes Town Council	Kate Pedler	Questa Chartered
Steve Whitehouse	Future Technology Services	Johnathon Townsend	Lloyds
Philip Crowther	Helms Briscoe	Pam Swain	British Association of Dental Nurses
Tom Willcox	Willcox PR	Jane Hugo	Street Life
Helen Clay	LeftCoast	Vicky Ivanov	Candy House
Elaine Smith	Blackpool Civic Trust	Paul Friday, Andrew Green	Future Focus Energy
Anne Catterson	Common Purpose	Joan Blackburn	Spire Healthcare
Wendy Harrison	Café Fresch	Debbs Lancelott	HoundsHill
Chris Maine	DPA Packaging	Ashley Moore	Event Assembly
Tim Freshney	WJF Technical Support	David Hardy	Champion Group
Nigel Leech	Home Comfort Services	Lucy Barnwell	Rossall School
Chris Hibbert	Henco	Tom Hutton, Dave Broadbent	AFC Fylde

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Long (chair) welcomed members to the meeting. He also thanked the Carlton Best Western and Starboard Hotels for hosting the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

The notes of the last meeting were acknowledged.

Tina Cooper (Blackpool Sixth) gave a brief update on The Christmas Miracle project that was presented at the last meeting. She said that the song had reached number one in the Amazon "Movers and Shakers" chart out-selling Sir Cliff Richard.

She thanked the BBLG members for their support and said that the amount of money raised for the Children's Society should be known by April.

3. Introduction to The Carlton Best Western

Kerian Barnes (Starboard Hotels) welcomed the group to the hotel and gave a brief presentation on the substantial investment that was being made to turn The Carlton into a destination hotel.

Kerian reported that there were now 18 different themed rooms as part of the extensive internal renovation work and the former function room was being turned into DDA-compliant rooms.

Planning permission has also been granted to build a new terrace at the front of the hotel.

During the development works the company had made a concerted effort to use local contractors and to use furniture and fittings from North West suppliers.

A full copy of Kerian's presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations

4. New Conference Centre For Blackpool

Alan Cavill (Director of Place, Blackpool Council) gave the group a detailed presentation on the proposed new conference and exhibition centre to be developed alongside the Winter Gardens.

He reported that earlier that week, the Government had announced that the major part of the funding had been agreed as part of Lancashire's Growth Deal.

He said that although a further funding bid for £3m from the Coastal Communities Fund was still pending, the project was now pushing ahead with detailed planning approval expected in April.

Subject to there being no unexpected delays, the conference centre is due for completion in the summer of 2019.

He said that the conference centre project was only one element of the regeneration of the Winter Gardens site. He said that there would eventually be investment of around £80m in the building. Other projects would bring the total investment in the town centre to around £400m.

Mick Grewcock (Burbage Holiday Group) urged the Council to redecorate the Empress Ballroom to give that particular area of the building a "wow factor".

Robert Wynne (West Coast) said the conference centre development was exciting news for town centre businesses and would have a very positive impact.

A full copy of Alan's presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations

5. **Enterprise Zone Update**

Rob Green (Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Development Co) gave an update on the two Enterprise Zones at Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse, Thornton.

He said there was a strong level of enquiries at both sites.

With regard to Blackpool Airport, he said that the sale was ongoing, but due diligence was underway and a much clearer picture of new ownership was anticipated by April. He said that the airport would remain open, although this was likely to be for niche operations rather than large-scale commercial flights.

A full copy of Rob's presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations

6. **Building Futures**

Tina Cooper (Blackpool Sixth) gave a presentation on the college's Building Futures programme of work experience and employer engagement.

She said this was aimed at giving the students high-quality work experience and work-related learning.

Tina set out a number of ways in which businesses could engage with the College:

- ✦ Guidance with careers
- ✦ Visits and work shadowing
- ✦ Guest speaking at the College
- ✦ Providing work experience placements
- ✦ Curriculum planning
- ✦ Joining the governing body

She said that the benefits for participating businesses included: Assisting with future recruitment strategy by identifying up-and-coming talent; developing and motivating their own staff; gain an understanding of modern learning and raising the profile/appeal of their own industry sector.

In return, the students would enrich their understanding of the world of work; gain confidence and maturity; develop key employment skills; help inform them of career and university choices; demonstrate what they have to offer in the workplace.

Tina then invited four students (Chelsea Markham, Hannah Fletcher, Josh Worrall, Lucy Churchill) to share their work-related experiences.

The BBLG members congratulated the young people on the quality of their presentations.

A full copy of Tina's presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations.

Any employer wishing to learn more about the programme, please contact Debbie Hodson, Head of Learning Resources and Careers at the College, email: debbi.hodson@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk or Claire Pinder, the Work Placement Officer, email: Claire.pinder@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk

7. Blackpool Rail Electrification Update

Jonathan Cooke and Alison Rowley (Network Rail) and Craig Harrop (Northern Rail) gave a joint update on the Blackpool to Preston electrification project. It was noted that the scheme was reaching a crucial stage with a series of weekend closures from January 21 to April 2. During this period there will be an amended timetable with bus services operating between Preston and Blackpool.

The latest phase of work includes track renewal at Salwick and drainage improvements and track upgrades at Poulton.

The timetable for the works reaches another critical stage after the main tourist season ends in November when the lines between Preston and Blackpool North and South stations will be closed. The Blackpool South line is then due to reopen in January 2018, followed by the reopening of the Blackpool North line in March, with electric trains operating from May.

Full details and updates can be found at www.networkrail.co.uk/blackpool

If any business has any specific question about the rail electrification project, email: Jonathan.Cooke@networkrail.co.uk

A full copy of the BBLG presentation can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Presentations

8. Business Partnerships Report

Philip Welsh tabled his report in advance of the meeting. He invited Andrew Crich (Civil Service Local) to elaborate on the item relating to the Inspiring Young People event in March (see under Any Other Business).

He also reported that Jane Kelly (Sandcastle Waterpark) was attending a BBLG meeting for the last time, prior to her emigrating to Australia. It was agreed that a note would be sent to Jane on behalf of the group thanking her for supporting the group for so many years and for her wider commitment to promoting Blackpool.

9. Any Other Business

Disability First – Request for Private Sector Support

Alan Reid reported that the Disability First charity is seeking to recruit new trustees to join its management board.

The organisation provides a portfolio of specialist services including welfare benefits advice and information; volunteer recruitment and hate crime reporting. It also aims to enable people of all ages with long-term health conditions and disabilities to live independently.

It is now inviting people with a range of skills to join the board. People with legal, finance, HR and marketing skills are of particular interest. For more info call Alan Reid, Acting Chief Executive on 07541222852 or email alanreid@disabilityfirst.org

Inspiring Young People

Andrew Crich (Civil Service Local) said that private sector support was required for an event being staged in Blackpool in March to help raise young people's career aspirations in Blackpool.

He said that the event was being staged by Blackpool Council in partnership with Civil Service Local North West at the Winter Gardens on Wednesday 29 March.

All employers in Blackpool are being invited to take part by showcasing their own organisations and helping inspire some of the young people in the world of work.

Any business interested in participating, please email: andrew.crich@dwp.gsi.gov.uk as soon as possible.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30am for 8.30am on Friday 31 March at The Hilton, Blackpool.