



BLACKPOOL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GROUP

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 26, 2018 AT THE HILTON, BLACKPOOL

| Name | Organisation | Name | Organisation |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| ATTENDEES | | | |
| Martin Long (chair) | Napthen's | John Barnett | Stardream/Radio Wave |
| Kila Redfean | Blue Skies | Pam Isherwood | Renaissance |
| Chris Hibbert | Henco | Paul Isherwood | Stress Buster |
| Lawrence McBurney | Cassidy & Ashton | Ron Bell | Abbey Bell |
| Melanie Whitehead | Electric Sunshine Project | Duncan Wilding, Mark Seymour | PHX Training |
| Amy Jackson | Marks & Spencer | Angie Hesketh | DWP |
| John Child | Sandcastle Waterpark | Susanne Johnson | Johnson's Emporium |
| Stephen Waterfield, Patrick McChrystal | Atlas | Dan O'Connor, Conner Romain | World 360 |
| Tracey Clarke | Toyland | Carmen Parkinson, Helen Livesey | The Business Clinic |
| Kerry Higginson | GP Strategies | Peter Gerring | Northern Rail |
| Jill Gray, Tina Cooper | Blackpool Sixth | Jonathan Cooke | Network Rail |
| Robert Owen, Stephen Burton | Blackpool Pleasure Beach | Rachel Riches | The Village |
| Mary and Nicky Speakman | Code Galaxy | Deborah Terras | UR Potential |
| Sam Bell, Aishley Doherty | Skool Of Street | Jon Rhodes | Rhodes Media |
| Paul Mathison, Beverly Smith, Paul Rooney | Create Construction/Hampton By Hilton | Paul Hardy, Matthew Parr | Napthens |
| Peter Rawlings | Tower Employment | Paul Whitehead | Blackpool Housing Co |
| Fay McLean | The Full Property Experience | William Heyworth Hill | Clicksway |
| Ashley Moore | Event Assembly | Robert Wynne | West Coast/The Brew Room |
| Carole Houston | Horizon | Debbs Lancelott | Houndshell |
| Michael Vincent | MJV and Co Solicitors | James Evans | HLS |
| Colin Johnston | Blackpool Grand Theatre | Dave Preston | Offigo |
| Michael Muschamp, Chris Calvert | Rushtons Accountants | Michael Williams | Winter Gardens |
| Nichola Howard | Launch Events N-W | Paul Wilcock | Montpelier |
| Greg Myerscough | RBS | Kevin Donnelly | XP Web Services |
| Louise Logan | Career Ready | Bev Robinson, Tim Lemon | Blackpool & The Fylde College |
| David Houston | Trinity Hospice | Sue Lockwood-Helm | The Hilton |
| Julie Casson | DWP | Geoff Moore | Canberra Hotel |
| Steve Burns | Think Forward | Sam Whitear | The Samuel James Group |
| Colin Taylor | Illuminations Ambassador | Elena Vasilieva | UCLAN |
| Mike Lovell | Cheetham Jackson | David McGing, Angelique Gonzales | Ibis Styles |
| Tony Carr | Social Enterprise Solutions | Andrew Wareing, Andy Atkinson | Voucher Packs |
| Emma Beardsworth | VIP Chauffeur Car Hire | Stewart Case | Jones Harris |
| Phil McVan | iEnergy Insights | Gary Edwards | Lateo Global Solutions |
| Elaine Smith | Friends of Stanley Park | David Chapman | Linkgate Leisure |
| Jane Hugo | Streetlife | David Stevenson | Cuadrilla |
| Chris Maine | DPA Packaging | Nikki Whittle | Brabners |
| Kristina Szigeti | Happy Creative | Kate Shane, Rebecca Hillman | Merlin Entertainments |
| Bev Wood | BWD Design | Steve Gill | Fylde Promotional Merchandise |
| Shaun Bennett | Links Signs & Graphics | Kim Heubner | PSG |
| Philip Owen | Consultant | Graham Wood | The WEC Group |
| Matt Watts | Lancs Cheesecake Co | Paula Davies | Radio Wave |
| Jane Littlewood | Rabbit Design | Jenna Bezance | Revolution |
| Tony Raynor | Abbey Telecom | Paul McCherry | lcloud 9 |
| Sarah Nicholson | Clifton Buying Group | Sunny Wang | Empathy at Home |
| Mark Fitzgerald | Sainsbury's | Janine Marshall | Genting Casino |
| Belinda Shore | Santander | Martin Blore | Consultant |
| Kristen Durose | Red Star Wealth | Tim Gavell | The Gazette |
| Tom Mercer | Handelsbanken | Jeremy Smith | Karl Smith Car Sales |
| Toby and Carlton Simpson | Coffee Brook | Darren Webster | Blackpool Zoo |
| Terry Hodgkinson | Blackpool Carers Centre | Andy Charles | Business In the Community |
| Pauline Lai, Gareth Thomas | Mandarin | Julie Holland | Viva Blackpool |
| Karen Cooper | Blackpool Transport | May Liu, Barrie Thompson | China UK Business Centre |
| Fiona Reid | Ascroft Whiteside | Chris Aiken-Graham | Federation of Small Business |
| Chris Curtis | CC Consultancy | Linus Welsh | AFC Fylde Community Foundation |
| Tom Metcalf | Little Touches | Norry Ascroft | Entertainer/Consultant |
| Nicola Atanassova, Mandy Tythe McCallum | VisitBlackpool | Lindsay Campbell, Oscar Rowley, Ben Campbell | Campbell & Rowley |
| Helen Atkinson, Sue Williams | Aspired Futures | Matthew Jones, Mac McMahon | Capture |
| OBSERVERS/GUESTS | | | |
| Philip Welsh, John Blackledge, Ian Large, Nick Gerrard, Carl Carrington | Blackpool Council | Rebecca Edwards, David Slater, Heather Morrow | Blackpool Council |
| Peter Howell-Jones | Dean of Blackburn Cathedral | | |
| APOLOGIES | | | |
| Joe Tantrum | Rawcliffe & Co | Frank Heald | Voiteq |
| Rob Green | Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre EDC | Mick Grewcock | Burbage Holiday Group |
| Andy Mellor | Primary Futures | Andrew Heydeman | Inspira |
| Michelle Smith | Blackpool Carers | Zoe Fleming | Roland Robinson & Fenton |
| Chris Oxley | Danbro | David Hoyle | Happy Days Childcare |
| Julia Eastwood | Artisan Tiles | Tom Willcox | Willcox PR |
| David Cam | Under Sheriff, County Palatine of Lancaster | Vicki Ivanov | Candy House Entertainment |
| Katherine O'Connor | Northern Powerhouse | Steve Godfrey | UK Fujitsu |
| Tracy Hopkins | Citizens Advice Bureau | Rob Grace | Natwest |
| Peter Bennett | Assess Design Develop | Richard Lefton | The Lefton Group |
| Roger Mellor, Andrew Jackson | Glasdon | Jonathan Barnes | Santander |
| Simon Smith | Natwest | Viv Cuthill | Coaching, Facilitation and Research |
| Damian and Helen Broughton | Danbro | Paul Crouch | AKS |
| Vanda De Freitas | Positive Steps | Karl Hanrahan | Grafikal UK |
| Michael Hyman | Leonard Dews | Paul Friday, Andrew Green | Future Focus Energy |
| Linda Palentine | UCLAN | Paul Stephens | Blackpool Rocks |
| Charlotte Gill-Ross | Ribby Village | Frances Thorpe | Welcome Deaf Awareness |

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Long (chair) welcomed members and guests to the meeting. At the start of the meeting, a minute's silence was held as a mark of respect to Jimmy Armfield, who died a few days earlier.

2. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

Minutes noted, no matters arising.

3. Playing Mercy Film Project

Matt Jones and Mac McMahon (Capture Films) gave a presentation on a new high-quality film drama they are seeking to make in Blackpool. The film, Playing Mercy, is based on a novel and is being planned with a budget of circa £1m.

They gave the group an insight into how the film might look and sound, as well as revealing some of the cast and production crew being lined up.

They said they had several potential investors lined up to support the film, but had opportunities for businesses to support either as investors or by providing services to help in the production of the film.

There was also an opportunity to use local talent to play some of the lead roles, particularly the teenage roles. Open castings would be held in the resort prior to the filming.

Any businesses interested in investing in the film or supporting it through provision of services, should contact matt@wearecapture.com

4. Blackpool's Piers

Carl Carrington (Blackpool Council) showed a film about the challenges facing Blackpool's Piers. He said that the piers had been placed on the World Monument Watch, alongside important heritage sites all over the world.

He said the main issue was the amount of money required to maintain piers given that many were in private ownership and owners were unable to access the sort of funds that might be available to local authorities. The latest survey had revealed that around £15m was required on repairs to North Pier alone.

Mr Carrington said that the Sedgwick family, who own Blackpool's three piers, were planning a Watch Day on June 9 with free activities throughout the day.

He said that Blackpool would also be hosting a major international conference in 2019 with owners of 89 piers across the world expected to attend.

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

5. Lancashire's Cathedral

The Dean of Blackburn Cathedral, Peter Howell-Jones gave a presentation on the development of the cathedral and emphasised its importance to the whole of Lancashire.

He set out four areas of activity: Interfaith relations and community cohesion; music outreach services across the county; education and learning; economic development and regeneration.

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

6. **New For 2018**

The group was given updates on four key investments in the visitor economy for 2018. Collectively, these investments are worth around £30m.

Hampton By Hilton

Paul Mathison (Create Construction) presented on the new 130-bedroom hotel under construction at South Beach and due to open around May time. He showed the group the proposed lay out and interior design of the hotel, all of which has been carried out to Hilton specifications with some additional Blackpool theming.

Project Elephant

Darren Webster (Blackpool Zoo) gave an update on Project Elephant, a capital investment which has come to fruition after four years of planning and development. He said the elephant facility, worth around £2.5m, was due to open at Easter with four elephants due to be relocated there from another UK zoo over the coming weeks. He extended an invitation to the group to view the facility after the next BBLG meeting on March 23.

Madame Tussauds

Kate Shane (Merlin Entertainments) gave an update on the various Merlin attractions in resort showing growth in visitor numbers and satisfaction ratings; new developments including details of two new features at the Madame Tussauds attraction – Marvel Comics superheroes and a Sporting Heroes Academy. Both will be housed in what is currently disused space in the building and are due to open at Easter.

Icon, Blackpool Pleasure Beach

Robert Owen (Blackpool Pleasure Beach) gave an update on the new ICON rollercoaster which is due to open in late spring. He showed the group two films, one showing the construction of the £16m ride, the other a simulation from a rider's viewpoint.

All four updates can be viewed at www.bblg.co.uk under Reports/Publications.

7. **Electrification Update**

Jonathan Cooke (Network Rail) and Peter Gerring (Northern Rail) gave an update on the Blackpool to Preston electrification project. It was noted that the Blackpool South line was due to open on schedule on the following Monday, with the Blackpool North line reopening on time on March 26.

However, it was also noted that there was a significant delay on the Preston-Bolton-Manchester corridor which would result in bus replacement services being put in place on more than 20 weekends between now and the summer.

Robert Owen (Pleasure Beach) and Kate Shane (Merlin) both expressed serious concern over the potential impact of this disruption on visitor numbers. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be held with Northern Rail to look at measures that might help mitigate.

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

8. **Business Partnerships Report**

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

CultureBlackpool

He reported that a new campaign had been launched at the Tower Circus earlier in the month, aimed at showcasing Blackpool's rich heritage assets. **Note:** A more detailed presentation on the CultureBlackpool campaign will be made at the March meeting of the BBLG.

Town Centre Improvement Programme

He drew the group's attention to the latest phase of town centre improvement works. He said that the Town Centre BID was planning a further meeting with Council representatives towards the end of February to discussing the ongoing works. He said that members of the BBLG would be welcome to attend that meeting if they wished to do so and he would circulate a time/date once the meeting was fixed.

9. Any Other Business

Vote of Thanks

The chair thanked the Hilton team for hosting the event and also the various 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 23 March, 2018, at The Village Hotel, East Park Drive, Blackpool. Note that there will be an opportunity to visit the new elephant facility at Blackpool Zoo immediately after the meeting.