

# Blackpool's casino loss 'a blessing'

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Losing out in the bid to build a super-casino was a blessing for Blackpool, says the head of the company running many of the town's tourist attractions.

Merlin Entertainments' chief executive, Nick Varney, said he was concerned about the casino plans as "first and foremost Blackpool is a family resort".

He said: "Every cloud has a silver lining but I think in the case of Blackpool it was gold-lined."

The company are transforming the tower for Blackpool Council.

They are developing a tower top observation platform which will be known as the Blackpool Tower Eye, the Blackpool Dungeon and Madame Tussauds waxworks. The work is ahead of schedule.

They unveiled a preview of one of the waxworks, entertainer Bruce Forsyth who has made appearances at the Tower Ballroom for Strictly Come Dancing.