

Alexandra Palace

ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE **CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD**

Tuesday 14th February 2017

Report Title: Chief Executive Officer's report

Report of: Louise Stewart, CEO, APPCT

Report Authorised by: Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust (APPCT)

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Purpose: To update the Board on current issues and projects at Alexandra Park and Palace.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note the information.

2. Business Plan

2.1 The Executive Team are in the process of preparing the 2017/18 Business Plan and finalising the budget, which will be presented to the Board in April.

2.2 The 2016/17 third quarter Business Plan progress report is included in the exempt section of the agenda.

3. Governance Review

3.1 The Governance Review is making progress identifying areas for improvement, greater clarity and refreshing existing processes and policies. Board members will be invited to attend a Governance Workshop in April to discuss the findings of the Review.

4. Strategic Vision

4.1 The Strategic Vision Steering Group met on 14th December to feedback on the findings from stage 1 (review of previous studies, masterplans and consultation). The

findings from stage 1 were shared with the Board on 18th January via email. Feedback has been passed on to the consultants.

- 4.2 Stage 2, which focuses on developing the Vision and objectives for the site, proposing projects to develop the Park and Palace to achieve the vision has now commenced. The team are at the early stages of planning the timing and methods to consult local stakeholders on the proposals.
- 4.3 Provisional dates for Board workshops on the Strategic Vision have been set: Tuesday 18th April and Monday 12th June.

5. East Wing Restoration Project

- 5.1 The Phase 1 - Enabling Works were due to complete in June 2016. This was extended to 8 December 2016. During the last few months the Contractor issued a 'Notice of Potential Delay' related to the discovery of asbestos containing material within a wall to BBC Studio zone 7 (Gallery). Further notices have been received for delays related to the discovery of asbestos to the window frames in the BBC Studio south elevation. It was planned to have all asbestos works completed by Christmas but these new finds mean the works ran into January.
- 5.2 Willmott Dixon demolished the East Court Ice Rink Reception/Bunker before Christmas and the breaking up the East Court floor commenced in January 2017. These are both items that were originally part of the main contract but have been brought forward due to the delays to the Enabling Works, to assist in minimising delays to the overall programme.
- 5.3 Phase 2 - The tenders for the Main Construction works have been received and assessed. These were in excess of the budget agreed for the restoration programme. These costs are now being revised. The Trust Board will consider the awarding of the main contract in February. The earliest Works will commence on site is March 2017 for a completion by late Spring 2018.
- 5.4 The concept design for the East Court is being progressed by the Architect. This aims to achieve an improved welcome for visitors and a new learning and participation zone.
- 5.5 The final approvals for the Activity Plan have been received and this will now commence in the new year with new staff to deliver it starting early in 2017.
- 5.6 Following the approval of the Listed Building Consent application for the removal of the sleeper walls in the Theatre in November 2016, the works are underway and the new floor slab is programmed for completion by mid-April 2017.
- 5.7 The Theatre ceiling survey work has concluded that there is significantly more damage, poor keying and missing sections than originally estimated. This is a combination of its age and damage incurred over the years. Proposals for its restoration treatment are being developed and reviewed with the Heritage Officers.

5.8 In mid-January Board members were sent an information note on the archive materials including the background, the items in the archive and progress on the conservation condition and approach. Two Board members have responded to the offer of a private viewing of a selection of these materials, which will be held at 6pm on 14th February, prior to this Board meeting.

6. Park premises licence

6.1 A stakeholder information session on licensing and events in the park was held on 31st January 2017. The session was attended by a mixture of SAC/CC members and members of the public. The team were able to give greater detail about the types of events that were being planned, although it should be noted these events are still in their early concept stages. Issues raised included;

- The timing of events
- The number of events
- The needs for clarity about the number of event days versus number of events
- The egress plans for the larger events
- The noise levels
- The marshalling at key pinch points
- The closure of the road and W3 Bus diversion

6.2 Whilst issues were raised there was not an overall objection to events in the Parkland. The audience were more supportive than anticipated. The team will review how we can mitigate the concerns of local residents in our management and planning of the events.

6.3 The License application will be made in February.

7. Fireworks feedback

7.2 As part of the planning for the 2017 Fireworks event the team are,

- investigating the resident parking permit process with Haringey Council and our traffic management contractor
- our resident and stakeholder communications to ensure that residents are better informed so they can make alternative arrangements regarding access for Fireworks and other events where access through the Park may be restricted.

7.4 The team have investigated the specific issue of the diversion timings of the W3 at the 2016 Fireworks event. On Friday 4th November the W3 was diverted earlier than was planned. In this instance the venue was not made aware of the earlier diversion of the bus. Discussions are planned with TFL to ensure where possible that bus diversion times are adhered to and the correct information is shown on the Alexandra Palace website.

8. Park

- 8.1 Go Ape Progress – The junior ropes course is now finished and the reception cabin is 90% complete. The current intention is to open this course in Spring 2017. Construction of the adult course is due to commence soon and will take up to eight weeks. At the time of writing the delivery date of the large wooden poles is unknown. This date is the key to the rest of the project.
- 8.2 Commemorative Benches Policy – Further to discussions on this subject last Summer the Advisory Committee's comments have been incorporated into the written policy and a decision flow chart has been created see Appendix 1, which should make the intentions more easily understood.
- 8.3 Park Works: This tree work due to be completed before Christmas has been re-scheduled due to contractor personnel changes. Work to resurface the Lower Road commenced in the new year. This capital project will improve the problems with erosion and surface condition of over 2,500 square metres of hard surface.

9. Customer Services

- 9.3 BBC reception is now a business only entrance. There is a buzzer entry system for business visitors. The old reception has been converted to office space and for the Learning and Participation team. A new visitor reception has been created within Palm Court and this is occupied by a newly created post of Customer Services Assistant.

10. Legal Implications

- 10.1. The Council's Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has noted the contents of this report, and has no comments/ advice at this stage.

12. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – decision Flowchart for Commemorative Benches