

NOTICE OF MEETING

MEETING OF THE ALEXANDRA PARK & PALACE STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 5th November, 2020, 7.30 pm - MS Teams (watch it [here](#))

Statutory Advisory Committee Members:

Councillors Patrick Berryman, James Chiriyankandath, Lucia das Neves, Josh Dixon, Scott Emery, Justin Hinchcliffe, Khaled Moyeed, and Elin Weston.

Jane Hutchinson (Alexandra Residents' Association), Ken Ranson (Bounds Green and District Residents' Association), John Crompton (Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Residents' Association), Kevin Stanfield (Palace Gates Residents' Association), Elizabeth Richardson (Palace View Residents' Association), David Frith (The Rookfield Association), Jason Beazley (Three Avenues Residents' Association), and Jim Jenks (Warner Estate Residents' Association).

1. ELECTION OF A CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

2. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Please note this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions, making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on. By entering the 'meeting room', you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The Chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual, or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

- (i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and
- (ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of Urgent Business. (Late items of Urgent Business will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items of Urgent Business will be dealt with under item 10 below.)

6. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 12)

- (i) To approve the minutes of the Statutory Advisory Committee meeting held on 1 September 2020 as a correct record.
- (ii) To note the minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committees held on 1 September 2020.
- (iii) To note the minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board meeting held on 14 September 2020 and 20 October 2020. **(To Follow)**

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) UPDATE (PAGES 13 - 18)

This report provides an update on Alexandra Park and Palace including planning and policy issues in relation to Alexandra Park and Palace and additional information on the events programme and a range of activities of the Charitable Trust.

8. NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS FEEDBACK

9. ITEMS RAISED BY INTERESTED GROUPS

10. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted at item 5 above.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates of future meetings:

15 March 2021

Fiona Rae
Tel – 020 8489 3541
Email: fiona.rae@haringey.gov.uk

Bernie Ryan
Assistant Director – Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer
River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8HQ

Wednesday, 28 October 2020

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MINUTES OF MEETING ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2020.

PRESENT:

Councillors Josh Dixon, Scott Emery, Elin Weston, Khaled Moyeed, Yvonne Say and James Chiriyankandath.

David Frith (The Rookfield Association), Jason Beazley – Chair (Three Avenues Residents Association), Jim Jenks (Warner Estate Residents Association).

73. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Noted.

74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Das Neves and Jane Hutchinson.

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

76. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

77. MINUTES

The meeting raised concerns that the previous APPCT Board minutes had not been included in the SAC agenda pack. Clerk to include in future agendas (**Action**).

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the Advisory Committee held on 10th December 2019.

78. CEO'S UPDATE REPORT

The SAC received a report which provided an update on Alexandra Park and Palace; including the impact of COVID-19, reopening and recovery, wellbeing survey, park management, Creative Learning and Dukes Avenue. The report was introduced by Louise Stewart, Chief Executive (CE) of APPCT as set out in the Joint SAC/CC agenda pack at pages 9-27.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report were noted.

79. CAR PARK CHARGING PROPOSALS

The SAC received a report which set out findings of the parking charges survey, the proposed discounts and exemptions for certain user groups, and the next steps in the process. The report was introduced by Louise Stewart, Chief Executive (CE) of APPCT as set out in the Joint SAC/CC agenda pack at pages 27-34. The SAC endorsed the comments made at the Joint Meeting of the Alexandra Park and Palace Statutory Advisory Committee and the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee and put forward the following points for the Board's consideration on the introduction of car parking charges:

- a. The SAC were broadly supportive of the proposals but raised some concerns around groups on low income and those who have mobility issues. It was suggested that parking charges should be kept as low as possible not to discourage particular user groups and perhaps there could be some free parking such as on Bank Holidays for lower income families who might wish to have a free day out.
- b. It was suggested that there needed to be a balanced response to this issue. There was a strong financial argument for introducing charges but there also needed to be some recognition that a significant proportion of people responding to the consultation expressed concerns with charging. It was suggested that local ward councillors needed to be engaging with the local community on this to ensure that those living in the vicinity of the park were aware of possible knock-on effects to parking in the surrounding area.
- c. It was commented that most people were used to paying for parking and that this was an unfortunate reality of the financial situation faced by APPCT and the need to protect the future of the charity.
- d. The SAC believes that any parking charges should not disadvantage vulnerable people and that some mitigation was required to protect them.

RESOLVED

That the SAC noted and discussed the information in the report and provided advice and feedback to the Trustee Board on the public feedback to the car park charging proposals.

80. END OF YEAR REPORT

The SAC received a report which provided an annual summary report on outdoor events monitoring, complaints and theatre activity. The report was introduced by Louise Stewart, Chief Executive (CE) of APPCT as set out in the Joint SAC/CC agenda pack at pages 35-42.

RESOLVED

That the SAC noted the report.

81. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

82. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

5th November

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date

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MINUTES OF MEETING JOINT MEETING OF THE ALEXANDRA PARK & PALACE STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2020, 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Statutory Advisory Committee Members

Councillors Josh Dixon, Scott Emery, Elin Weston, Khaled Moyeed, Yvonne Say and James Chiriyankandath.

David Frith (The Rookfield Association), Jason Beazley (Three Avenues Residents Association), Jim Jenks (Warner Estate Residents Association).

Consultative Committee Members

Councillors Dana Carlin, Nick da Costa, Bob Hare and Anne Stennett.

Gordon Hutchinson (Friends of Alexandra Park), John Wilkinson (Alexandra Palace Allotments Association), Jacob O'Callaghan (Alexandra Park & Palace Conservation Area Advisory Committee), Nigel Willmott (Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre), Richard Hudson (Warner Estate Residents Association).

166. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

Jason Beazley was nominated as Chair.

167. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Noted.

168. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Jane Hutchinson (SAC), Cllr Das Neves (SAC) & John Boshier (CC).

169. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

170. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

171. MINUTES

The meeting raised concerns that the previous APPCT Board minutes had not been included in the SAC agenda pack. Clerk to include in future agendas **(Action)**.

The joint meeting sought clarification on when public access would be allowed to the West Yard. In response, the CEO advised that the building was not yet in a position for the public to be allowed access, however once work was completed a tour could be arranged for SAC/CC members. In response to a follow up question around whether the BBC tower could be included in the tour, the joint committee was advised that this area was not habitable at present.

The joint committee also requested a tour of the railway bridge. In response, the CEO set out that the bridge was owned by the Crown Estate and that the Palace were unable to comment on the state of the structure as it did not belong to them and had no input into its maintenance.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the 10th December 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

172. CEO'S UPDATE REPORT

The joint SAC/CC received a report which provided an update on Alexandra Park and Palace; including the impact of COVID-19, reopening and recovery, wellbeing survey, park management, Creative Learning and Dukes Avenue. The report was introduced by Louise Stewart, Chief Executive (CE) of APPCT as set out in the agenda pack at pages 9-27. The following was noted in discussion of this item:

- a. Clarification was sought around whether any conversations had taken place around the likelihood of further road closures and when these might occur. In response, the CE commented that the last few weeks had seen an increase in incidents of dangerous driving and dangerous parking and that APPCT were in conversation with the Police about how best to tackle this.
- b. Clarification was also sought around parking donations and whether there was an indication of how much this brought in. In response, it was noted that the donations were contributing to the costs of managing the car parks and that this could be £5k on a good week but less when the weather was bad. Having CSP on-site provided APPCT with a safe way of managing the car parks.
- c. Concerns were raised with the closure of Grove car park, given the possible impact on those with mobility issues. In response, Louise commented that this was very small car park and it was less economically viable to open than some of the larger car parks. There were also problems with ASB around this location and it was tricky to manage when the overall site is not busy. APPCT were looking at how they could open it more consistently.
- d. Further information was requested around the application for a Culture Recovery Fund. In response, the CE advised that an application had been submitted but they had not been informed of the decision yet, it was anticipated this would take at least four weeks. In regards to other funding, APPCT had received £250k from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Corporate Trustee have given an additional grant of £500k.

- e. In relation to Dukes Avenue bridge members of the joint meeting expressed concern at the DfT's seeming desire to demolish the bridge and there was a long historical connection between the bridge and the Palace.
- f. In relation to the litter in the park, an audit was being undertaken of where improvements needed to be made and where signage should be increased. However, the CE emphasised that signage did not necessarily deter litter and that there was always a minority who ignored instructions.
- g. In regards to litter, the joint meetings and the management team at APPCT acknowledged the phenomenal work done by local volunteers in litter picking and those present wished the record their thanks for all of the work done by the volunteers to keep the park clean.
- h. Concerns were noted with the fact that there had not been a litter communications campaign rolled out over lockdown, like Haringey and Keep Britain Tidy had done. It was suggested that the Royal Parks had erected large signs around fencing and that this could be something for APPCT to consider in future. The CEO pointed out that the campaign had been on social media and that litter prevention signs were in place in the Park having been put in place the previous year.
- i. Cllr Hare requested that the veteran trees that were part of the old Tottenham wood farm be included into the tree survey and a possible tree walk, going forwards. The CE advised that she would raise this with the Parks Manager at APPCT, but cautioned that this would likely cost money. Cllr Hare requested some further information as to how much it might cost as there may be some scope to secure some voluntary funding for it. **(Action: Louise Stewart)**.
- j. The CEO updated the Committee on water leaks in the park in the Grove and lower road. Thames Water were on site for approximately three months to repair the significant leak in the Lower Road. Thames Water installed new drainage gullies and resurfaced a large area of the lower road, which had resolved some pre-existing problems.
- k. The CE highlighted Council's consultation on the Bedford Road traffic improvement measures and advised that the Trust would feed into the consultation.
- l. A number of exhibitions were still scheduled to go ahead, including Knit & Stich. The theatre had also been in use during the lockdown. Further discussions were continuing to take place with the Licensing Authority about the fireworks. In response to a follow-up question, APPCT advised that they were still some weeks off before having to make a decision on whether to go ahead with the fireworks or not. The event is delivered by APPCT itself with a regular partner so could be brought together quickly. The SAC/CC commented that having a very large space should be an advantage in respect of being able to hold a fireworks event.
- m. In response to a question around holding silent fireworks events, the CE advised that the issue was more about maintaining social distancing rather than noise.
- n. A question was raised around whether there was provision for those without a car to attend drive-in events. In response, the CE advised that the opera were making provision for this. The CE agreed to circulate a note to the SAC/CC on the access arrangements for drive-in events. **(Action: Louise Stewart)**.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

173. CAR PARK CHARGING PROPOSALS

The joint SAC/CC received a report which set out findings of the parking charges survey, the proposed discounts and exemptions for certain user groups, and the next steps in the process. The report was introduced by Louise Stewart, Chief Executive (CE) of APPCT as set out in the agenda pack at pages 27-34. The following was noted in discussion of this item:

- a. In response to a question around the proposed prices for parking, the CE advised that tariffs were included as part of the consultation and this information was available on the website. The proposal consulted upon was for the first half an hour to be free and then an increasing scale dependent upon the length of time required, from £1.50 up to £8 for 4 hours plus hours.
- b. The joint meeting sought clarification as to whether APPCT had heard from the Charity Commission in relation to the proposed introduction of car parking charges the SAC/CC was advised that the Charity Commission had come back with some clarification questions but no formal response had yet been received. The CE advised that if the Board agreed to proceed, it would be anticipated that car parking charges would be in place for the beginning of the new financial year.
- c. Concerns were raised on behalf of local residents of Springfield Road and Dukes Avenue, who had been petitioning against implementing without having a CPZ in place in the surrounding roads, due to an expected adverse impact on the wider parking network. In response, APPCT acknowledged these concerns and commented that this was set out as part of the consultation. It was noted that the Palace had not seen people refusing to donate to the current donate to park scheme and/or this having an impact to date on surrounding roads.
- d. The Chair asked whether there was data available of where visitors come from. In response, the CE advised that this was collated as part of the survey but in relation to the 4m plus visits a year to the palace there was incomplete data as it was not a paid attraction and could not use data from tickets sales.
- e. The joint meeting sought clarification around whether, following the APPCT proposals to make parking less costly for certain user groups whether it was expected that this would satisfy most user groups. In response, the CE advised that she believed the consultation would reassure user groups that they were listened to. The CE suggested that it was unlikely that everyone would be satisfied, but that was confident that user group who may have been disproportionately disadvantaged would be supported with some form of reduced tariff.
- f. The SAC/CC commented that they hoped regular users and people with mobility issues would not be unduly penalised. The CE reminded members that the consultation had set out that Blue Badge holders would not be charged and that the blue badge criteria had been broadened considerably in recent years. It was also pointed out that disability and ability to pay for parking were not the same thing.
- g. A member of SAC/CC set out that they remained opposed to any parking along Alexandra Palace Way. In response, the CE acknowledged these concerns and set out that one of the Board's considerations, if approved, would be how best to

manage that area – including possible removal of parking bays on Alexandra Palace Way, as per the information provided in the consultation information.

- h. It was suggested that one of the main points that came through from the consultation was that parking charges needed to be as low as possible and that the Trust should not disadvantage any vulnerable groups. In response, APPCT advised that whilst over 2000 responses were received, they were heavily weighted by local residents. It was important to take into account that the responses did not necessarily reflect the views of the wider group of making up the 4m visits that the Park and Palace received in a year.

The following feedback was put forward for the Board's consideration on the introduction of car parking charges:

- a. The joint SAC/CC were broadly supportive of the proposals but raised some concerns around groups on low income and those who have mobility issues. It was suggested that parking charges should be kept as low as possible not to discourage particular user groups and perhaps there could be some free parking such as on Bank Holidays for lower income families who might wish to have a free day out.
- b. It was suggested that there needed to be a balanced response to this issue. There was a strong financial argument for introducing charges but there also needed to be some recognition that a significant proportion of people responding to the consultation expressed concerns with charging. It was suggested that local ward councillors needed to be engaging with the local community on this to ensure that those living in the vicinity of the park were aware of possible knock-on effects to parking in the surrounding area.
- c. It was commented that most people were used to paying for parking and that this was an unfortunate reality of the financial situation faced by APPCT and the need to protect the future of the charity.
- d. The SAC/CC were clear that any parking charges should not disadvantage vulnerable people and that some mitigation was required to protect them.

RESOLVED

That the SAC/CC noted and discussed the information in the report and provided advice and feedback to the Trustee Board on the public feedback to the car park charging proposals.

174. END OF YEAR REPORT

The joint SAC/CC received a report which provided an annual summary report on outdoor events monitoring, complaints and theatre activity. The report was introduced by Louise Stewart, Chief Executive (CE) of APPCT as set out in the agenda pack at pages 35-42. The following was noted in discussion of this item:

- a. In relation to complaints it was suggested that although it looked like there was a lot, the numbers were quite low for an attraction of its size. It was acknowledged that this was more than the Palace would like but there was a system in place of recording every complaint, but that every complaint did not necessarily end up being progressed down the formal route.

- b. The SAC/CC welcomed the fact that they were able to see how much had taken place in the Theatre. It was one of the only parts of the building generating some revenue at present and the team had worked hard to make a success of reopening the theatre in 2018, only to have to close it again. The CE acknowledged this and advised that the team continued to be creative on how to use the space and that she was confident that it would be a success, once restrictions were lifted.
- c. In response to a question, the CE advised that the theatre was financially contributing as expected and that it had attracted events and also increased collaboration between the different teams at AP particularly between events and Creative Learning. There was more creative learning involvement in other areas of the business as a result.
- d. The SAC/CC commented that the Creative Learning Team had been doing a fantastic job and that they deserved a lot of credit.

RESOLVED

That the joint SAC/CC noted the report.

175. NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS FEEDBACK

Nigel Willmott, advised the joint SAC/CC that the informal Board meeting in April was focused around the board being provided with the car parking consultation results and the COVID-19 lockdown. Since then, the Board had received regular updates on COVID-19 and had also held joint informal meetings with the Trading Company subsidiary to discuss the road closure and ASB. It was noted that the Board had been very supportive of the team and what they had been able to achieve during lock down, including; food distribution, keeping the park going in response to huge demand, reopening the Terrace and the opening of the outdoor cinema.

176. ITEMS RAISED BY INTERESTED GROUPS

It was commented that the owner of Tottenham Wood Farm was Thomas Rhodes and that, aside from being related to Thomas, there was no connection between Cecil Rhodes and Alexandra Palace.

The Friends of the Alexandra Park advised that they had just published a book entitled 'The History of Alexandra Park', which was available on the website.

177. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A.

178. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

5th November

15th March

CHAIR: Jason Beazley

Signed by Chair

Date

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**ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE JOINT MEETING OF THE
STATUTORY ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES**

5th November 2020

Report Title: CEO's Report

Report of: Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose: *This report provides information to the Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committees on planning and policy issues in relation to Alexandra Park and Palace. It also provides additional information on the events programme and a range of activities of the Charitable Trust.*

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: N/A

1. Recommendation

To note the content of this report.

2. Governance

2.1 Changes to Board Members

Due to changes to elected member appointments at Haringey Council, the Trust welcomed Cllr Mike Hakata and Elin Weston on 1st October 2020 as the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the APPCT Board.

2.2 Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre

2.2.1 At its meeting on 14th September, the Trustee Board approved amendments to the future relationship between the Trust and the Friends of Alexandra Palace Theatre (FOAPT). The report can be viewed on the Council's website (link below).

<https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=105&MId=9427&Ver=4>

2.2.3 The Board recognised the value of the FOAPT and its success in generating public support and funding to bring the Theatre back into use. The Trust had changed considerably since the FOAPT was established and now had dedicated communication, creative learning and fundraising teams and with the Theatre now open it was necessary for the group to review its future purpose, its constitution and relationship with the Trust. The changes outlined in the Board report would bring the relationship between the Trust and the FOAPT in line with other special interest groups associated with the Park and Palace, such as those on the Consultative Committee.

2.3 Car Park Charging Proposal

Following the Trustee Board's approval in September a formal application was made to the Charity Commission, who have granted a Section 105 Order permitting the Trust to implement the car park charging scheme. The Order was granted at the end of October 2020. The Trust is now reviewing the plans for implementation with the intention to have charging in place by April 2021.

2.4 Silver Access Service Award

In October Alexandra Palace was awarded silver status by Attitude is Everything <http://www.attitudeiseverything.org.uk/> a Music Industry standard for accessibility and visitor experience.

2.5 Repairs & Maintenance

Public Areas

- Ice Rink reopening works included reflective ceiling repairs, rink pad painting and application of the AP Monogram, new perimeter kicker plates, ice reinstated, ice pit and sump waterproofing and drainage survey, stud flooring repairs throughout skate hire and Café, redecoration by stands and to doors and East Corridor plinths, render repairs to plinths to Cafe/Reception and part Ice Rink, overhaul of roof lanterns over Reception, re-plastering of west staircase, and installation of sink and hot water to skate hire.
- East Corridor temporary reception desk, new Ice Rink signage, and partial redecoration.
- Great Hall abseil glazing survey, abseil inspections and welding repairs to external spaceframes including sample decoration panel, repairs to floor expansion joints (and minor filming damage).
- East Court and Theatre - Final snagging works from East Wing Restoration Project, servicing of vents and joist hanger strengthening to Theatre ceiling.
- Panorama Room - Abseil cleaning of valley gutter to fabric roof and snagging works for basement project.
- Covid measures to Ice Rink, West Hall and Palm Court, including screens and sanitizers units.
- Periodic inspections to front elevations.
- Pitch & Putt - Repairs and redecoration

Back of House

- West Yard Building - Installation of cage over lift shaft and commissioning of goods lift.
- West Yard - Installation of trough sink for contractors/staff.
- North Yard/GH Bridge - Structural survey and CAD drawings.
- North Yard/Palace Suite - Commence dismantling of redundant chiller plant.
- BBC Tower - Ceiling propping and repair to 4th floor, and partial office replastering and redecoration.
- Periodic inspections to rear elevations.

3. Covid update

3.1 Anti-social behaviour and Alexandra Palace Way

Despite the closure of parking bays, evening and night time drivers and anti-social behaviour (ASB) is now blocking a lane of Alexandra Place Way some evenings. We remain in dialogue with the Police about measures to be taken. Crimes and anti-social behaviour should be reported to the local authority's dedicated ASB Team (Tel 020 8489 1335) and the Police.

3.2 Visitor Services

The Palace remains largely closed and the visitor services team continues to operate with limited staff. Calls are diverted to a mobile phone and, if the visitor services assistant is already on a call, the line rings out, when it would normally be diverted to another telephone line. We encourage anyone who has difficulty getting through by telephone at the current time to use the 'Contact Us' form on our website:

<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/contact/get-in-touch/#:~:text=Should%20you%20have%20any%20concerns,2121>.

3.4 Culture Recovery Fund

At the time of writing this report the Trust was waiting on the outcome of its application to the Culture Recovery Fund. Although some announcements have been made, the announcements for the strand of the CRF that the Trust applied for have yet to be made.

4. Park

4.1 The Park has won the Green Flag Award for the thirteenth year. The mast was lit green on 14 October to show support for parks and green spaces and the dedicated staff and volunteers who maintain them.

4.2 The Park also received a Green Heritage Award for the eleventh straight year. Supported by Historic England, this is given in recognition of achieving the required standard in the management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance. To receive Green Heritage Accreditation, sites must also achieve the Green Flag Award. This is in addition to the Park achieving 3 gold awards from London in Bloom announced earlier in the year for: Large Park, Heritage Park and Conservation Area.

4.3 These awards are set against the backdrop of lockdown and increased pressure as visitor numbers increased dramatically. An estimated 2.8 million people visited between May and September, an increase of almost 90% in the period, compared to the average for the last three years. The Alexandra Park team, assisted by over 100 volunteers, have collected more than 100 tonnes of rubbish during the same period, up almost sixty percent.

5. Heritage and Interpretation

Our volunteers continue to support us in responding to enquiries and requests for information about the collections and heritage. For those interested we recommend a visit to our blog pages to explore the archive as well as a piece from one of our volunteers on the history and stories of the 'living museum' here at the Park and Palace. <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/about-us/blog/#>

6. Creative Learning

- 6.1 The Creative Learning team continue to deliver online and face to face outdoor activity and is launching a new programme in partnership with three residential homes where artists will visit and to talk to occupants through their windows.
- 6.2 The team is also working with Haringey library service, connecting with Black History Month and providing programmes around identity politics (linking the arts and politics) and guidance for young people who want to launch into the music industry.
- 6.3 The Big Schools SEND (Special Education Needs & Disability) launches in November. Schools are being invited to create a dance with workshops supported by partners Para-dance and artists. The dance videos will be published on line before Christmas.
- 6.4 The Little Inventors programme is live, challenging under 16s to design something to support wildlife in the Park. The winners' inventions will be made and displayed in the Creative Learning Zone area of the park (the old deer enclosure).
- 6.5 Two Creative Learning wellbeing programmes were included in the recent national Heritage Alliance report on heritage and wellbeing engagement activities.

7. Events

- 7.1 After deliberation thorough assessment, internally and with our partners, the decision was taken to cancel the Fireworks Festival for 2020. Despite exploring several different approaches to produce a covid safe event it is simply not viable to hold the event this year.
- 7.2 We launched Live at Ally Pally in October, a season of indoor and socially distanced events in the Palace's West Hall. Comedy, live music and alternative theatre are on offer from 15th October with Al Murray and running into December. Crucially, these will be the first public events inside the Palace in over six months. Live at Ally Pally will be an important test case for us as we try to expand what we can offer. We are one of the few venues in the country to be hosting such an ambitious programme, and it is a credit to everyone who has worked on the project to get it to this stage.
- 7.3 The ice rink reopened to the public on 1st October for the first time since lockdown began. The public opening follows a successful period during which the ice rink team facilitated the return of professional skating sessions and ice hockey training. Extra measures have been put in place to ensure that rink visitors are socially distanced according to latest Government guidelines.

- 7.4 Drive in Opera with the English National Opera's (ENO) La Boheme received universal acclaim and rave reviews, including a breath-taking screening on Sky Arts.
- 7.5 World-renowned photographer and artist Spencer Tunick chose the Park and Palace as the backdrop for his work, titled Everyone Together, in partnership with Sky Arts. Featuring 220 volunteer models, the image was used as the main visual to announce that the Sky Arts TV channel is now on Freeview.
- 7.6 A series of films will be screened in theatre, including the online stream of Nick Cave that was filmed earlier in the year in the West Hall. Dates to be confirmed.
- 7.7 We launched our Christmas programme including 47 performances of the Gruffalo's child, Christmas films, ice skating & Santa's grotto. Like all of our events at the moment, our teams have worked hard to create a covid secure, socially distanced environment for people to enjoy live performances.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Council's Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted on this report and advises that there are no legal implications arising from this report.

9. Appendices

None

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