

MINUTES OF MEETING ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2021, 7.30 - 9.20 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Mike Hakata (Chair), Elin Weston (Vice-Chair), Nick da Costa, Eldridge Culverwell and Bob Hare

Non-voting Members: Jason Beazley, Duncan Neill and Nigel Willmott

65. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair informed all present that the meeting was being live streamed on the Council's website.

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carlin and Val Paley.

67. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

69. QUESTIONS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

None.

70. CEO'S REPORT

Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Alexandra Palace, introduced the report and explained that the report was a light update as the meeting was outside of the usual meetings schedule. The following was noted:

- a. The car park charging project was still on track for implementation in April 2021 although it could be later in the month. Options for separating the scheme into several parts to enable enforcement to be implemented first would address the high volumes of car-borne anti-social behaviour (ASB) on the road, which had not reduced over the winter and was expected to increase as the weather became warmer and evenings lighter. The relevant local authorities were engaged.

The Trust was committed to implementing the entire scheme this year. The scheme would not resolve all ASB issues but would enable the Trust to manage car related ASB and illegal parking on its land.

The Chair highlighted that the current tap to donate scheme in the East Car Park had raised £131,000, which demonstrated the importance of car park charging as an income stream for the Charity and asked whether all car parks would be covered. Louise Stewart confirmed that all car parks would be covered by the scheme although the East Car Park was the only car park to open during the pandemic because it was the easiest to manage. It was not cost effective to open the Grove car park at present, which was a common area for ASB but under the scheme it would be open and secure.

In response to questions around sustainable travel plans and closing the road to traffic in the future, Louise Stewart explained that, as with car parks, closing the road would displace the issues. The road was used by approximately 70,000 cars a week and closure would impact the local community. A bus gate couldn't be ruled out for the future but a decision had to be based on the Charity's need.

- b. Glazing & roofing repairs – the Trust was hoping to apply to at least one funding body for some of the work.
- c. The Sales, Events and other teams continued to work extremely hard to keep Alexandra Park and Palace on the radar, engaging with clients, the public and supply chains and finding opportunities to generate income, including filming shoots on site.
- d. Board Members supported any opportunity the Trust had to celebrate its volunteers for the scale of their support for the Trust and asked for more information on the award nomination submitted by the Trust. Louise Stewart explained that two nominations were made to The Heritage Alliance, Heritage Heroes Award for the local volunteers and also the Trust's wider volunteers who had stayed engaged despite not being able to attend in person. Trustees would continue to receive the regular volunteers' newsletters curated by some of the volunteers themselves.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

71. CREATIVE LEARNING

- a. Mark Civil, Head of Creative Learning, gave a presentation showing recent and current activities. Online digital resources had been an aspiration early in 2020 but in March 2020 the small team was forced to move forward with the plan and had since produced 43 activity support packs to support various groups: teachers, schools, families using the park, residential care homes.
- b. In addition, the team had produced 25 films, some step by step guides to learning new films, some setting challenges and advocacy films. The team was still delivering weekly workshops over Zoom (primarily with young people and

older people) and had hosted seven youth panels as well as some face to face and dial-in workshops with young people excluded from school.

- c. Volunteers continued to work across the site with 10 working on the archives, inputting data into the digital collection system and other administrative support. Weekly newsletters updated the volunteers on Creative Learning and the wider organisation activities but it also provided information about opportunities and support in the locality.
- d. Some face to face activities had taken place with 25 days of outdoor summer camps including street art, sustainable fashion, street dance and spoken word techniques in an outdoor environment.
- e. The schools programme was the hardest hit during 2020 but the team still reached 7,000 children with the Biblio Buzz project and the Big Schools programme. Biblio Buzz 2021 had recently launched but had to be pushed back to June for various reasons that have since been resolved.
- f. The Big Schools Para Dance set design & choreography programme for young people with special education needs was initially planned to enable the young people to showcase their dance work in the Theatre but was moved online as a gala event with advocacy from dance artists.
- g. The Young People's Programme, Culture Bubble, was launched online, its core purpose was to create a channel for young people to have a voice through APP and to create programme but to also encourage leadership careers in the sector. The first task for the Young People's Panel was to create a manifesto and regular panels are hosted: <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/culture-bubble-youth-voice/> . The Team was also working with Haringey libraries and Arts Council England to broaden the project across the borough to engage young people in programming culture in their locality.
- h. Residential homes were also hit hard by the lockdown with reduced visits and residents being isolated for weeks. The Team started creating monthly resource packs for engagement officers in care homes to use with the residents and created Little Windows Therapies where visual performers create bespoke acts that create a dialogue with the residents and the outside world, through the windows. The sessions took place for one month before Christmas and will resume this year.
- i. Prior to the lockdown Rhythm Stick used the Theatre as a safe space for a club-night at least 3 times a year. 15 young people (NEETS – Not in Education, Employment or Training) learned through a training programme how to organise an event. A similar programme with adults with learning disabilities has just been completed to create an advocacy video for Rhythm Stick and it is hoped an event can take place in March.
- j. Through funding from the BBC Children in Need, the team had been able to target Young Carers with a programme for respite opportunities and activities for their families to come together through the spirit of play. The project initially

planned workshops and activities in the Creativity Pavilion and Ice Rink but was replaced with activity hampers and a Deliveroo voucher being sent to families and opportunities to join online performance and social events.

- k. Although outdoor learning activities are on hold, the team was working with an artist on fitting a learning structure and compostable/ adaptable toilets in the old Deer Enclosure and investigating Wild in the Park merchandise possibilities.
- l. In response to questions on how partnerships were developed Mark Civil explained that a combination of council-led and grass roots organisations were used to reach new groups. A need was established and then the Team would think about which funders to target.

The Board commended the Creative Learning Team's ability to adapt and the level of work it has been able to deliver and **RESOLVED**

- **That the Young People's Panel be invited to a future meeting to present their manifesto; and**
- **To act as advocates, sharing the work of the Creative Learning Team across the borough.**

Action: Share Presentation with Board Members & arrange invite for Young Peoples (Natalie Layton)

72. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

None

73. FUTURE MEETINGS

29 March 2021

74. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of items 11-13 as they contain exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972; Para 3 - information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information), and Para 5 – Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

75. EXEMPT - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT VARIATION

The recommendations in the report were approved.

76. EXEMPT - STAFF WELLBEING SURVEY

The presentation was noted.

77. ANY OTHER EXEMPT BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

None.

CHAIR: Councillor Mike Hakata

Signed by Chair

Date