

# Alexandra Palace

## **ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE** **CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD**

**19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018**

**Report Title:** CEO's Report

**Report of:** Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

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### **Purpose:**

This report updates the Board of Trustees on current issues and projects at 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. Recommendations**

1.1 To note the content of this report.

### **2. Strategic Vision**

2.1 Trustees approved the Strategic Vision at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and the new Board has been supplied with the summary document and will be taken through progress and next steps at their annual strategy day in October.

### **3. Governance Review**

3.1 Trustees approved the Governance Review report recommendations on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and the Corporate Trustee was consulted on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

3.2 The next step will be to design and test the new governance model.

3.3 A workshop will take place in September for the benefit of newly appointed Trustees.

#### 4. East Wing Restoration Project

- 4.1 Progress to completion is going well with over 150 people working on the site. The aim is to complete by the 23 August 2018, 8 weeks later than originally planned.
- 4.2 In the last few months we have seen the large scaffolding birdcage removed from the theatre and the original floor boards placed back into position, the scaffolding from the NE Tower removed and the near completion of roofing works.
- 4.3 The project has not been without its issues. New problems continue to arise such as the need for more lightening protection on adjacent areas, corroded steels in concrete ceilings and works to ensure the proscenium arch is safe.
- 4.4 Costs are being managed through the weekly cost control panel but have exceeded the budget. A plan has been developed to enable the Trust to cover these costs. The plan was approved by Trustees on 26<sup>th</sup> March, and is being implemented. The overspend is approximately 2% of the overall budget. Regular updates are provided to the Trust's Programme Board, Haringey Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 4.5 There has been progress with the design of the Creative Learning Zone and seeking Listed Building Consent. This is covered in more detail in a report elsewhere on the agenda.
- 4.6 Creative Learning are developing the following projects to form part of the launch of the East Wing and Learning Centre:
  - 4.6.1 Competitions across Haringey primary schools challenging pupils to create invention drawings, followed by opportunities to **MEET MAGNIFICENT MAKERS** with unique opportunity for children and makers, designers and artists to come together and collaborate to bring children's imagination to life. **LITTLE INVENTORS** projects will open children's eyes to the world of invention and creativity by drawing inspiration from AP/Victorian stories of innovation.
  - 4.6.2 A new schools programme in January 2019 for **KS1, KS2 & KS3** including **STEAM WORKSHOPS & TOURS** developed in consultation with teachers focusing on Television Broadcasting, Victorian special effects, Leisure, and Events planning. Workshops have clear curriculum links and are developed in partnerships with Middlesex University, Headlong and Wilderness Trust. These workshops will form part of the core learning workshops and tours and are marketed as part of a comprehensive package of workshops.
  - 4.6.3 A programme of contemporary art and engagement projects called **EAST COURT COMMISSIONS** which will invite artists to collaborate with local communities to co-create exhibits and/or installations - across all art-forms - responding to the heritage, architecture or landscape of Alexandra Palace and drawing inspiration from the collections, archives, local memories, ideas, myths and legends about the People's Palace. We have confirmed artist Gerry Pilgrim and are in discussions with others.
  - 4.6.4 A secondary schools event, currently under represented in the schools programme, which will see pupil's work with our heritage to create a

performance in the Theatre in November - **PALACE UNCOVERED**. Each participating school will be given a box to unlock which contains a range of stimuli inspired by our archive that alludes to a theme of Restoration. (We hope to make this an annual event dependent on available funding in future years).

## **5. West Yard Storage Project**

5.1 This project is now expected to complete on 6 August 2018. The scaffolding is starting to be removed and preparation for the new security gates has commenced and internal fit out of the areas is also underway.

## **6. Park Update**

6.1 Spring started late this year, the wet end to the winter kept the grass cutting machines in the sheds for a couple of extra weeks. The sudden warmth and sunshine, coupled with the wet conditions were perfect for grass growth and the grounds team had a big challenge getting the mowing schedules under control.

6.2 There has been a lot of hot, sunny weather in recent weeks, especially across the two bank holidays in May. This has resulted in a huge increase in litter and rubbish being left in the Park. This amounted to five tonnes a day over the peak periods. During the weekends the grounds team have two staff on litter collection and bin emptying duty until 4.00pm. After a particularly busy weekend for the Park all five staff are diverted to litter clearance from the 196 acres and emptying of the 80 litter bins.

6.3 A number of avenues are being pursued in response to the recent upturn in littering:

1. Supplement the existing signage – six ‘rules of the Park’ signs have been installed near the car parks
2. Programmed replacement of dilapidated bins with larger litter bins (x4)
3. Use of new temporary ‘cage bins’ in hot spots at peak periods (x6)

6.4 Haringey Council recently implemented a charge for taking domestic green waste from households. A number of incidents of green waste fly-tipping have taken place in the Park since, and this will be monitored and reported to the Police and Council.

6.5 The annual tree safety survey has been completed. 36 trees have been highlighted for the next round of works, of which 23 are earmarked for felling. The recent apparent increased prevalence of Kretschmaria is a concern. We have anecdotal observations of perhaps why this is becoming an issue, and are liaising with other tree officer/ fungi experts.

6.6 The crown reduction of a third of the chestnut trees opposite the avenue has been completed and the next batch of work will be programmed for the autumn.

6.7 The Forestry Commission contractors were on site in early spring to treat for Oak Processionary Moth. Despite this work a number of new nests have been identified

across the Park. Where the nests are easily accessible the trees have been fenced off. The forestry commission surveyors are due on site in the coming weeks to assess the full extent of the issue. As the caterpillars and their nests are a safety issue this may require intensive management in the near future which could be very costly.

- 6.8 The bird and bat surveys have been taking place around the Park over recent weeks. These surveys are part of the long-term monitoring of the site and will help management and mitigation of the potential impact of outdoor events and usage of the park generally. Early reports are that eight of the UK's breeding bat species have been picked up in the Park. Bird nesting surveys have also been taking place.
- 6.9 An outdoor events workshop has been held to further improve engagement and understanding between Park, Sales and Event teams, management and protection of the Park and clear up after events.
- 6.10 Progress has been made in a number of areas in relation to the property in the Park. The leases for CUFOS and Little Dinosaurs have been successfully renewed. The Grove Café and Alexandra Park Club rent reviews are underway (as per the provisions of their particular leases). A programme of building inspections is underway with the aim to visit each tenant by the end of the financial year.
- 6.11 The delayed reinstatement of the grounds around the Go Ape course will commence in late-June. This work will include tidying up the access track, levelling and re-seeding some of the grass areas, installing drainage to alleviate the boggy conditions in winter.

## **7. Events**

Quarter 1 Events:

- 7.1 We have now hosted two of our four StrEATlife street food and craft beer festivals held over the summer months. The first on 26-27 May, the second 23-24 June. The event continues to be free entry and has a great turn out, attracting a total crowd of around 8,000 over each weekend. There have been no notable negative comments on social media and some noise complaints, although it has been confirmed that we have stayed safely within our licensed limits.
- 7.2 The Country Living exhibition returned after being a new event last year and was a success, attended by over 10,000 receiving great feedback from exhibitors, traders and visitors alike.
- 7.3 We hosted 4 sell out concerts from a range of international artists; The Vaccines, Dua Lipa, Bonobo and Haim.

## Future Events:

- 7.4 Kaleidoscope, our new arts and music festival will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July. A one-day event that will see a programme of music, theatre, comedy and spoken word set across both the Park and Palace. The event will be open and accessible for families and young children as well as a more traditional festival audience.
- 7.5 The Summer Festival has been re-named The Great Fete and will be taking place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August - with a community focus; this is being programmed closely with the Creative Learning department.
- 7.6 The large inflatable obstacle course that premiered last year as The Beast is returning as The Monster and will be installed again in the Great Hall over the August Bank Holiday.

## **8. Heineken Beer Garden Activation**

- 8.1 The Alexandra Palace beer provider Heineken have agreed to invest in an onsite facility on the terrace outside the Phoenix Bar and Kitchen to:
  - a) increase profile of the Phoenix Bar and Kitchen;
  - b) improve the look and feel of this area, and;
  - c) increase gift aid to the Trust.
- 8.2 Suitable designs are currently being scoped. The outline of the proposal will be to place a shipping container within the outdoor pub garden to be used as an additional bar.
- 8.3 The brief states that the final design must fit within the Palace brand and, when not in use, to still have a purpose either through telling our story or using as a promotional tool.
- 8.4 The structure will be temporary and not fixed to the ground therefore, the planning authority, Haringey Council have advised that listed building consent will not be required.

## **9. Legal Implications**

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

## **10. Financial Implications**

- 10.1 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

## **11. Use of Appendices**

None