



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

**16<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019**

**Report Title:** CEO's Report

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

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

**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.

### **1. Recommendation**

1.1 To note the content of this report.

### **2. London Fire Brigade (LFB) presence on Tuesday 11 June**

- 2.1 On Tuesday 11 June the London Fire Brigade (LFB) were on site to test the new temporary water supply measures agreed with LFB in January until corroded fire main pipework is replaced. The LFB team were on site all day although the exercise itself lasted between 1-4pm and was confined to the North Yard, the Paddocks, Pavilion and East car parks and basement areas. LFB drones monitored the event, which included 12 appliances, 2 mobile command units, a London Fire Brigade high velocity hose laying vehicle and various other vehicles across the campus with more than 70 firefighters on site.
- 2.2 The fire main operated as expected although LFB raised concern about the water flow rate into the pump house from the main supply. LFB have a contingency plan in place and the AP team will continue to work with LFB to find a permanent solution.
- 2.3 TfL& Haringey Council were notified prior to the event and additional car parking attendants were employed to deal with any questions from members of the public. There were no restrictions to access to facilities or services on the day and no water was directed at the building, to minimise damage to fabric.

### **3 Park Update**

- 3.1 Following the increase in litter and rubbish left in the Park by visitors last summer a new series of signs have been designed. These signs have a variety of messages to

attract attention and make people think twice before littering whilst also showing visitors that the site is cared for.

- 3.2 The Grounds Maintenance team continue to work hard across the site. As well as rubbish and litter collection, the team maintain the horticultural features, including roses, shrub beds and seasonal displays. A green-waste shredding machine was on site recently to create organic mulch that will be spread around veteran trees in the Park. The mulch recreates the woodland floor, supplying nutrients for the trees and encouraging beneficial fungi and earthworm activity.
- 3.3 The operator of the coffee van at the Parkrun has decided not to continue as the income is not sufficient.
- 3.4 Volunteer groups working with The Conservation Volunteers and Trees for Cities have been making habitat improvements around site. These tasks include creation of dead-hedges (as an alternative to metal or wooden bollards), loggeries (for invertebrates including the stag beetle) and maintenance of the orchards.
- 3.5 The ongoing work by the Forestry Commission (FC) to tackle Oak Processionary Moth continues this year. The FC will carry out two sprays of the previously infested trees in Spring. The Trust will continue with a risk-based approach to cordon off nests that people may easily come into contact with. Any sightings should be reported via the contact form on the Alexandra Palace website and the FC's Tree Alert website <https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/>.

#### **4. East Wing and Theatre**

- 4.1 The diversity of performances in the Theatre continues – in April, the space welcomed two sold-out comedy acts (Tommy Tiernan and Alan Carr) as well as a promenade show by Haringey has Pride. Friday Night is Music night returned for a second time, and the BBC Concert Orchestra (BBCCO) were back for rehearsals.
- 4.2 In May, the Monteverdi choir and orchestra performed Handel's Semele – the production was well-received, with the Telegraph giving it four stars. Four nights of ENO's Paul Bunyan followed and then back-to-back bookings of BBCCO rehearsals and another night of comedy, this time with Reginald D Hunter. Finishing off the month was the first combined standing and seating music gig – FKA Twigs, which sold out, receiving rave reviews from the likes of the NME, the Guardian and the Standard.
- 4.3 With regards to the East Wing project contract, some minor snagging issues remain and are due to be resolved in the next few weeks.
- 4.4 Work on the Creativity Pavilion in the East Court is expected to begin over the summer and complete around September. The Creative Learning team are using the space for many of our public learning activities.

## **5. Heritage Significance Appraisal**

- 5.1 A Heritage Significance Appraisal has been undertaken for the Park and Palace. Using existing expert information, the purpose of the Appraisal is to provide a summary of the Park and Palace's overall heritage significance, whilst also examining the significance of individual spaces/areas. The Appraisal explains the different types of heritage significance (in accordance with Historic England guidance) and the different weightings that can be applied when examining heritage significance. Recommendations and guidance are provided, which include suggested steps to take when considering new or different types of uses for spaces/areas in both the building and the parkland.
- 5.2 The appraisal has been compiled using information contained within current and historic documents and plans including the 1996 APP Conservation Area Advisory Committee Assessment, the extant Conservation Management Plan and Fabric Maintenance Plans for the Palace, Historic England guidance, the National Planning Policy Framework, the Conservation and Heritage Management Plan for the Park, reports from the Alexandra Palace Television Group and Society and associated individuals, as well as consultant reports.
- 5.3 The public consultation started on 27 June 2019 and will close on 30 September 2019. The draft document has been designed to be read online: <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/consultation/>  
Comments can be submitted by email to [consultation@alexandrapalace.com](mailto:consultation@alexandrapalace.com)  
There are also printed copies available to view in the East Court (open from 0900hr – 1700hr 7-days a week).
- 5.4 The SAC and CC were notified of the consultation on 27<sup>th</sup> June and will be formally consulted at the end of the public consultation period so that they will have the benefit of the consultation results. The Board will then receive the final results and any recommendations from the SAC/CC.

## **6. Creative Learning**

- 6.1 The team continue to deliver approximately 10 public and family activities (including Mini movers, Baby Jazz, Drumming Workshops, monthly wellness cafe as well as individual school workshops, targeted outreach workshops, creative writing and computer sessions for older people.
- 6.2 In May, Creative Learning launched a ten-week pilot programme, Wild in the Park, that provides on-going therapeutic support, learning and fun for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties between the ages of five and sixteen years. The programme has been designed with outdoor learning experts from the Wild Trust, and will run with groups of young people with SEMH from Haringey Tuition Service. The programme aims to create a safe and supportive environment for children and young people to make life-long friendships, networks and get to know neighbours and communities; as well as actively taking a leading role in shaping aspects of the park for a range of communities and people to use, particularly in areas where there has historically been a high level of anti-social activity.

- 6.3 On June 22nd, Windrush Day, the newly refurbished Theatre hosted Rum, Rhyme and Liming, a Caribbean social event for older people and their friends and families with music, poetry, social dancing and song, to commemorate the arrival of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks in Essex in 1948. The range of artists and performers included multi award-winning recipient of the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, John Agard, and the infectious calypso and kaiso music of Tobago Crusoe. The event was FREE for seniors, unwaged, disabled, students and under 5's.
- 6.4 In May the team secured an Arts Council award to produce Never Forget, an evocative performance journey commissioned the Creative Learning Team, commemorating the 17,000 "enemy alien" internees incarcerated in Alexandra Palace during the First World War. Geraldine Pilgrim (Artistic Director) will bring together 200 people from Haringey to take part in a unique participatory event. Acclaimed for her evocative transformations of buildings and landscapes, Geraldine Pilgrim will create a journey around Alexandra Palace showing images inspired by this shadow over Alexandra Palace's history. The result of First World War enemy paranoia will be seen in juxtaposition with dreams of an imagined world where migration is accepted and supported by all, alongside the current world situation with its fear of the unknown outsider.
- 6.5 The Creative Learning Team has been instrumental in developing Haringey Cultural Education Partnership as part of an Arts Council England initiative to create a national network of cultural partnerships, which encourage schools and creative organisations to collaborate, increasing the richness and quality of experiences for young people. Haringey's launched its first free networking event at the Bernie Grant Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and teachers from early years through to KS5 were involved in the development. The Creative Learning Team helped shape the programme and delivered workshops for tutors on the day.
- 6.6 The Great Fete will take place on August 17th – a festival for the community with theatrical and musical performances on four stages, a mix of free and paid activities and an opportunity for visitors to talk to the team at Alexandra Palace about the Trust and its activities and future plans. Creative activities, circus arts, workshops, storytelling, talks and tours will take place across the Park including a poetry corner. Haringey Shed return to perform their new promenade piece. The People's Stage will be run by the Community Music Apprentice programme and will host performances from local people and Haringey's rising talent. More information will be on our website soon <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/the-great-fete-2/>

## **7. West Yard Storage Building**

The surface water attenuation tanks have now been installed in the North Yard, and Building Control sign off is expected to be issued in June. Outstanding matters such as the external road treatments that may be subject to amendments, are still being resolved by the contractor.

## **8. Events**

- 8.1 Whilst we await the return of Kaleidoscope (Ally Pally's very own combined Arts & Music Festival) in 2020, the team are busy planning a series of events under the banner 'Kaleidoscope Presents...'. The first of these will take place in on 25th August, with Norman Jay bringing his famous Carnival Bus out of retirement and up to the Palace, building recognition for the Kaleidoscope brand and keeping audiences engaged in our off-year <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/kaleidoscope-presents-norman-jay-mbe-good-times-palace/>

## **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 comment.

## **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