



ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD

8th October 2019

Report Title: CEO's Report

Report of: Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

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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

1.1 To note the content of this report.

2. Governance and Strategy update

2.1 Inductions have been held with the new FRRAC and APTL appointments and they have attended their first round of meetings.

2.2 The Trustee Board Strategy Day took place on Saturday 28th September to look at progress and future plans and included training and development for trustee board members.

2.3 Campsbourne Project

2.3.1 A stand at the Great Fete was used for early engagement with local residents and visitors on their ideas on the potential re-design, re-imagining and re-use of the South East corner of the Park. An estimated 250-300 people visited the stand and initial assessment of feedback indicates the exercise was useful in gathering information and ideas to help shape and focus the brief.

2.3.2 Ideas included: Edible plants, Toilets, Natural swimming, Natural play, Sculpture park, Wildlife/, Bicycle rental, Café, Forest School, Outdoor stage/ bandstand/ amphitheatre, Maze

2.3.3 The next steps include initial conversation with potential funders and partners, creating a more focussed brief and an understanding of who we might want to talk to about the next stages of co-creation (including residents and specific groups around Campsbourne area).

2.4 Car Park Charging Feasibility Project

2.4.1 The Trustee Board met with the project consultants as part of the Trust Strategy Day to discuss their feedback on initial assessments. It is expected that formal consultation on recommendations will commence before the end of the year.

2.5 Heritage Significance Appraisal

2.5.1 Consultation on the draft Heritage Significance Appraisal Document went live in June and ends on 30th September 2019.

2.5.2 The Trust will report back to the SAC/CC once all comments have been received, following any meetings with respondents and any changes to the draft document have been made.

3. Park Update

3.1 Tree Planting Project

3.1.1 The Park has been awarded £15,000 from the Mayor of London's Greener City Fund Community Tree Planting Grant which is 50% of a £30k project, the rest of which will be made up of a mixture of cash and in kind contributions from the Trust, partners and volunteers.

3.1.2 The project aims to restore the historic avenues and remnant hedgerows, improve biodiversity and engage the community in the enhancement of the landscape by planting new signature trees in the 150-year-old designed landscape. We will work with specialist partner organisations to ensure the age, species and planting of trees is appropriate to the locations chosen, so that they thrive and will work with our local community directly and also through established routes to engage a diverse range of groups and individuals.

3.1.3 Alexandra Park is listed in the English Heritage Register of Park and Gardens and it benefits from a stock of around 7,500 trees. These trees vary from individual specimens and copses, hedgerows and linear features as well as larger woodland areas.

3.1.4 Project activities include:

- New tree planting across a wide range of settings for a variety of purposes.
 - Infilling of oak trees along 'remnant' hedgerows to maintain continuity of these features that pre-date the Park and create a new cohort of young oaks
 - Specimen tree planting to create new focal points of interest for visitors and to enhance the Parkland setting

- Infill planting of flowering and fruiting tree species and infill species rich hedges
- Engagement of volunteers and the local community in the planning and delivery of the project
- Use of the project activities to link to our existing creative learning activities, encouraging young people to spend more time in the natural environment.

3.1.5 A Tree and Woodland Management Plan for the site is in development as part of the Strategic Vision for the Park and Palace. This plan is beginning to set out a framework to manage and protect the treescape of the Park for the long term, creating a diversity of species, not only to support existing bird and insect life but to protect the Park's landscape character and tree stock from the increasing threat of tree diseases. The site benefits from 45% canopy cover and the existing open spaces are valued as such. Therefore, further woodland creation has been ruled out.

3.2 The Park achieved the Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Award again this year. These are the internationally recognised standards for quality. In the annual London in Bloom competition this year the Park achieved Gold in the following categories: Large Park (above 25 acres), Large Conservation Area and Heritage Park/Garden.

3.3 The rubbish and litter left in the Park surged again this summer. The new signs were noticed by a member of a district council outside London who was interested in the rationale and the results of the initiative. In July, the Grounds Maintenance Team collected 14 tonnes of rubbish and in August this figure increased to over 20 tonnes. Staff worked up to 9.00pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays to keep on top of it – this is an extra cost incurred as a result of the popularity of the Park.

3.4 The mulch spreading under trees is well underway. This will help improve ground conditions and make our tree more resilient to pest diseases and the impacts of greater footfall. Tree safety surveys and consequential work continue. Nine of the 7,500 trees on site have been recommended for felling.

3.5 Volunteer groups working with The Conservation Volunteers and Trees for Cities have continued 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. A new programme of works has been put together to implement the recommendations made by various ecologist's reports and this will be funded by the allocation of Restoration Levy from events held in the Park

4. East Wing and Theatre

4.1 Over the summer the Theatre has been busy with a varied programme, including hosting our first large corporate event with Pret a Manger's Quarterly Briefing, the recording of a pilot TV show for Thames TV, Graham Nash (in concert), being part of London Fashion Week by hosting Simone Rocha's runway show, and holding the 'Interpreting Heritage' conference, which was curated by England's Heritage Cities, Alexandra Palace and Jonathan Foyle. The BBC Concert Orchestra returned to

rehearse for the Proms and we are looking forward to their concert as part of London Film Festival in October.

- 4.2 In June, a varied programme saw sold-out crowds for the world premiere of Liam Gallagher's documentary *As It Was* and Madonna recording an exclusive Q and A with Graham Norton to celebrate her album launch. We also held our first club night designed by and for young people with disabilities; *Rhythm Stick*, which was the culmination of a Creative Learning project, and hosted *Shine*; a celebration of inclusive dance presented by *icandance* and their 75 dancers with varying impairment, aged 4 to 25 years old.
- 4.3 Essential works have taken place over the summer in the East Court and Theatre, both scheduled maintenance and snagging works, including window vent repairs, BMS reprogramming and monitoring heating/ventilation, fire alarm. Further work on the ventilators continued in September together with glazing renewals and repairs, additional under-stage propping to south front and rear completed and the 6 monthly inspection of the Theatre auditorium ceiling and walls carried out. Defects still being added and monitored with the contractor through the Mi-Aftercare system to resolve the issues. Additional power supplies were also run in-house to facilitate events and temporary catering units.
- 4.4 Work on the Creativity Pavilion in the East Court is scheduled to start on Monday 30 September.

5. Creative Learning

5.1 Summer Creativity Camps

- 5.1.1 This summer Creative Learning launched six weeks of week-long Summer Camps to teach, connect and inspire young people based in Haringey. Camps used arts based activities to provide an alternate to the traditional sports - based activities offered over the summer; linking young people to leading artists such as *Carleen De Sözer* in the fields of circus, street art, music, film making, outdoor learning and festival design.
- 5.1.2 Most summer camps were sold out, apart from Festival arts (60% full). The Camps were low costs and subsidised by 50% of the costs by NLHF and John Thaw Foundation. Bursaries were made available to low income families, and some camps were free for users.
- 5.1.3 The feedback for each Summer Camp was extremely positive, including: 100% satisfaction rate (Children), all parents/carers said the camp was good value for money and started at an appropriate time (09:00-16:00). Parents described children's most enthusiastic comments as being: on the receiving end of a friendly welcome from camp leaders and Isobel; having an opportunity to explore their creativity. 100% of respondents said the camp was good value for money. "Understatement! Amazing value for money, founded a variety of activities every single day. Never a dull moment!"
- 5.1.4 We also held the FREE 5-day camp – *Band in a Week*.

5.2 The Great Fete

5.2.1 The Great Fete is an annual family festival held at Alexandra Park and Palace on the 17th of August. The event is free to attend and includes music, food, workshops and performances.

The Partners:

5.2.2 This is the second year in which the Creative Learning team programmed a large part of the festival. This year the team worked with 26 different partners (including 7 new partners such as Breadline, Edible London, Generation Uncovered and Bruce Grove Youth Space). 18 of those partners work in Haringey specifically with most of them concentrating their provision within the East of the borough. 19 of the partners work with young people and 2 of them are inclusive.

5.2.3 As part of this partnership work, we worked with the library service and delivered 5 workshops in 2 libraries in the East of the borough (Marcus Garvey and Combes Croft Library). Each session invited local families to reflect on journeys and design birds which were exhibited at the festival as part of a larger nest installation. Each workshop reached over 30 local people and families and invited these families to the festival to see their work displayed. This kind of outreach work is proving to be a very effective way of engaging new audiences as libraries remain a key (free) institution that local people access throughout the year.

5.2.4 All of these partnerships are important in being able to reach parts of the community and borough our current provision does not reach. They also contribute to the spirit of the festival which is to showcase all that Haringey has to offer. We look forward to exploring how some of these newer partners can develop and support some of our programmes.

The People's Stage:

5.2.5 The festival included a People's Stage, which showcased local talent and organisations. 130 people performed as part of 15 different acts including dance, circus, spoken word, drumming and live music.

5.2.6 Candy Dance Stars, a dance group for 50+ opened the stage, followed by a number of acts including Steppaz youth dance group, Yemalla all female drumming group, Generation Uncovered's most talented young hip hop artists and finally closing with The London House Cats, a Haringey based adult community choir.

5.2.7 The stage was managed by Community Music, one of our long standing partners who deliver our Band in a Week Summer School and work with 4 sound engineer apprentices to run the stage. The People's Stage has become a key feature of the Great fete, with artists contacting us throughout the year for an opportunity to perform.

5.4 The Ice Rink offered subsidised ice skating tickets to low income families (pupil premium children) during the summer. 200 out of the 450 tickets offered were redeemed.

5.5 Other events:

5.5.1 Wild in the Park ran for 10 weeks - outdoor learning (with the Wild Trust and SEMH from Haringey Tuition Service) for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

5.5.2 Regular Creative Learning events: weekly mini movers, Baby Jazz, Drumming Workshops, monthly wellness café, targeted outreach workshops, creative writing and computer sessions for older people and school workshops

5.6 Through the summer we provided 119 volunteer opportunities assisting with creative learning and events fundraising and tours.

5.7 Black History Month - October

5.7.1 The Creative Learning team are developing an Alexandra Palace Black History Tour in partnership with a specialist black history tour guide. An exhibition called Don't Stop the Carnival was planned in the East Court but had to be cancelled due to the installation of the Creativity Pavilion during October. However, this will be replaced with *They Came Before Us* an exhibition in partnership with Collage Arts who are running an employability programme with BAME women and looking at BAME women in history and responding to them through different arts forms.

5.7.2 Carleen De Sözer will be returning to work with a group of teenagers to design a mural for The Grove Pedestrian bridge, inspired by Black History. The young people will develop their street art skills, mainly stencilling

5.8 Transmitter Hall Redecoration Project

A Commercial partner is sponsoring the redecoration of the Transmitter Hall space to make it more welcoming and more suitable for activities, particularly for people living with dementia - using colour, texture and layout. The Creative Learning team aimed to use apprentices from a local college to work on the project but even with help from the Council's employment support service it has not been possible to find available apprentices and so the sponsor will provide a team to do the work.

5.9 Table 1 lists the learning and participation events since the last meeting and upcoming events:

Table 1 – L&P events coming up

DATE	Event	Location
Weekly	Mini-movers, Baby Jazz, Baby Yoga	East Court
13 Sept	Coffee & Computers (free monthly drop-in session for older people)	
30 Aug-21 st Sept	Never Forget – WW1 AP Internees exhibition	East Court
26 Sept and almost weekly	Singing for the Brain & Also on 3 rd Oct, 10 Oct, 17 Oct, 7 Nov, 14, Nov, 28 Nov, 5 Dec, 12 Dec.	Transmitter Hall
30 Sept	Wellness Café	Transmitter Hall
30 Sept	BAFTA Gaming (equipping teachers with tools to teach gaming & impacts on mental health and wellbeing)	Panorama Room
11 Oct	Coffee and Computers	East Court
11-24 Oct	They Came Before Us Exhibition	East Court
24 Oct	Black History Month tours	East court, park, ice rink corridor, Great hall, West corridors, Palm Court
28 Oct	Wellness Cafe	Transmitter Hall
7 Nov	Blacktooth	Transmitter Hall
9 Nov	Little Inventors Day	East Court
14 Dec	Possible archive event TBC	Transmitter Hall
27 Jan 2020	Wellness Café	Transmitter Hall

6. West Yard Storage Building

- 6.1 Building Control sign off is still outstanding due to a number of planning matters that need resolving and a new planning application is outstanding for a gate control panel in front of the NW Tower. The SACC will be asked to comment as soon as the detail and explanatory notes are available.

7. Events and Noise Management

- 7.1 On 17th August The Great Fete took place across the Park and Palace. This was a success and attended by approximately 10,000 people. The event brought together all of the teams across APTL and APPCT to deliver the event. The Creative Learning team programed a wide range of activities; including a DJ performance from DJ Yoda and cinema screenings in the theatre of Peppa Pig during the day and Blade Runner in the evening.
- 7.2 On 6th July Red Bull Soapbox took place. The event was attended by nearly 18,000 people and received positive feedback from both visitors and the client who was very enthused by the event. Just two noise complaints were associated with this event, with one during the sound check
- 7.3 The StrEATlife events took place in May, June and July.
- 7.4 The Park Monitoring Framework has been observed and received positive results with an average KPI of 93% across the 4 events that have taken place (Great Fete, Luna, Red Bull, Norman Jay).
- 7.5 On Sunday 25th August Alexandra Palace hosted Norman Jay MBEs Good Times Sound System as part of the Kaleidoscope Presents series. This has historically

been one of the most well-known parts of the world famous annual Notting Hill Carnival.

- 7.6 On 3rd September as part of Kaleidoscope Presents series Alexandra Place opened their basements working with Rift Theatres on their production of Midsummer Night's Dream. The show saw several parts of the unused basements used as spaces for the performance. The play has been well received with several 4 and 5 star reviews. Strict controls on working and performing in this sensitive environment were set and monitored.
- 7.7 Alexandra Palace Fireworks festival will take place on 1st and 2nd November. There are no significant changes to the event itself with the exception of the theatre opening during the event to show 4 separate films. The park and road will close on Thursday 31st October at 20.00 and re-open at 13.00 on Sunday 3rd November. The closure time has been extended to allow for a safer breakdown on the Sunday.
- 7.8 As with previous years Alexandra Palace Way will be closed on New Year's Eve. Times are still to be confirmed but it will likely be from 21.00-01.00hrs.
- 7.9 There have been a total of 8 separate noise complaints for events over the summer period with 4 of these over one weekend of StrEATlife
- 7.10 Table 3 - noise complaints calendar Year to Date:

Month	Event	No. of complaints
July	Red Bull	2
	Luna Cinema	1
	Streatlife	6
August	The Great Fete	0
	Kaleidoscope Presents – Norman J Good Times	1
	8 August	1
September	Private event in the Park	2
	Pixies	1
November	Fireworks festival	
Total number of noise complaints received (2018/20 1st Apr-to date)		14

- 7.11 Two of the 6 noise complaints during the Streatlife event were received at the same time of day. The sound monitoring expert visited 3 of the locations to test the sound. The complaint received on 8th August was not related to an event but the noise of a generator, which may not have been coming from Alexandra Palace. On 20th September there was a private event taking place in the Park and a local resident phoned twice about noise disturbance from a megaphone that was being used – on both occasions the volume was adjusted.
- 7.12 At its meeting on 3rd October the SAC/CC were presented with the updated Annual Report on the Outdoor Monitoring Framework on covering November 2017 to March 2018. The next report will cover 1st April 2019 to 30th March 2020
- 7.13 Forthcoming events can be viewed online <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/>

8. Financial Implications

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

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. Appendices - None