



**ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE JOINT MEETING OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY  
AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES**  
**10 December 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 Car Park Charging Proposal

- 2.1.1 The Trust's proposal to introduce car park charges was publicised on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The survey will be live until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and stakeholders, beneficiaries, visitors and local residents are encouraged to provide their views on the proposal: [www.alexandrapalace.com/parking](http://www.alexandrapalace.com/parking)
- 2.1.2 Hard copies of the information and survey are available from the Ice Rink and East Court receptions.
- 2.1.3 A series of informal drop-in sessions for members of the public to share their views and discuss the proposal with members of the team have been arranged. At the time of writing this report three of these sessions have already taken place.
- 2.1.4 The next drop-in sessions will be held Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 12pm – 1pm, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1-4pm and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 5-8pm in the Transmitter Hall, which is accessed from the South Terrace next to the BBC Tower.

### **3. Park Update**

#### **3.1 Tree Planting Project**

- 3.1.1 Further to the award of £15,000 from the Mayor of London's Greener City Fund Community Tree Planting Grant towards tree planting. Ten volunteer planting days have been scheduled. These will be delivered by our partner The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). To avoid buying new plastic tree-ties we will be using old inner tubes instead to divert them from landfill. This was an idea put forward by our Development Manager, Katherine Harding. On 28 November, 8 AP staff members joined the volunteers to plant 5 trees in the golf course Chestnut Avenue and 4 trees in Newland Field.
- 3.1.2 The funder has agreed to our replanting of existing self-seeded oak saplings to ensure the remnant hedgerows are repopulated with trees of local provenance.
- 3.1.3 The TCV have also been hosting volunteer tasks to help us deliver the habitat improvements being funded by the Restoration Levy. A new pond has been created in the Grove along with removal of non-native invasive shrubs from woodlands and installation of dead-hedges as a wildlife friendly way to reduce disturbance in certain areas.

#### **3.2 Street Lighting**

- 3.2.1 We have been struggling this year to find a reliable contractor to maintain the street lights across the 196-acre site. The problem is further complicated because the faults are not just dead light-bulbs, but a much deeper issues with the cabling or infrastructure (it's now mostly 40 years old and reaching the end of its lifespan).
- 3.2.2 We now have a contractor in place and they have been working through the backlog of lighting issues. They have successfully replaced the faulty lamps in the East car park and have been working on fault finding at the Alexandra Park Road entrance. They have also recently repaired the lighting near the old railway bridge by the Dukes Avenue entrance and at the time of writing they were replacing the damaged columns on Alexandra Park Way below the garden centre.

### **4. Theatre**

- 4.1 The Theatre programme has been packed in October and November in the run up to our first anniversary.
- During October we held events for authors Jacqueline Wilson and Philip Pullman (the launch of the new Book of Dust) and hosted the children's opera of Where The Wild Things Are.
  - The theatre toilets were used to film the opening scenes of a new BBC Crime drama and Ronnie Scott's returned for two sold out concerts.
  - In November Deaf Havana's gig raised money for War Child while AJ Tracey was in the Great Hall – the first time we have had two standing concerts on the same night.

- Palace Uncovered saw Creative Learning take over the theatre to work with two local sixth forms to devise a performance around the history of Ally Pally.
- Robbie Williams filmed a spectacular Christmas special that will be aired on 8 December on ITV
- Frank Turner and the Sleeping Souls rounds off the month.

4.2 We kick off December with Above and Beyond filming a music video in the theatre; a still from which will be used for their next album cover. After two nights of Embrace (live music).

Peter Pan Goes Wrong flies in to the theatre for a three week run that is selling very well. This show will use the theatre's technical capability in new ways and is a superb (and very funny) family show. Once we close Peter Pan in January we will be hosting a banquet, a wedding reception and BBC Concert Orchestra rehearsals for their performance in February.

4.3 On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 the East Wing Project won the AJ Architecture Award in the Heritage Building category. This adds to a number of awards won, including: London Building Excellence Awards 2019 (LABC) for Best Small Commercial Project, RIBA 2019 (Winner of Regional, National and Conservation Awards), Johnstone's 2019 (Painter of the Year – Commercial and Leisure) and the London Venue Award 2019.

## 5. Creative Learning

### 5.1 Creativity Pavilion

Works to the Creativity Pavilion commenced on Monday 21 October. The contractor undertaking the work is Factory Settings, who have a proven track record of delivering small-scale, standalone, pre-fabricated projects at the Palace, having built both the interpretation structure in the East Court and the Theatre Foyer Bar. Expected completion is mid-December, and the Creative Learning team are busy programming the space.

5.2 In October, Creative Learning launched Back to Black: A Black History tour of Alexandra Palace. The tour was developed and delivered by black history tour guide specialist Avril Nanton and touched upon many aspects of black history at the Palace; from the most celebrated talent showcased on the BBC, such as Evelyn Dove, Una Marson, Cy Grant, Winifred Atwell, and Adelaide Hall, to the Nubian Sports display at the bottom of the south slopes.

5.3 Creative Learning have been developing a more comprehensive tour programme. During October/November the team went on a number of 'go and see' visits to explore how other organisations of varying sizes manage their tour programmes, including visits to The Albert Hall, Blenheim Palace and Crystal Palace Museum. This research culminated in a cross-department workshop attended by Bridget Nolan, Tour Manager from the Albert Hall. In addition, we also piloted a tour package with the sales team for the DCMS annual conference, which saw a team of 4 volunteers delivering a West to East tour of the Palace for 50 conference delegates.

5.4 Following the success of our Summer Creativity Camps, we have now programmed schools holiday activities throughout all breaks, except Christmas and Easter. During

October half-term we ran From the Streets, which saw 15 young people work with Urban Artist Carleen De Souzer to refurbish the Muswell Hill footbridge. This project

also marked the next phase of the Creative Learning provision, the Youth Programming Team and Young Creative Industries Network, which will see more examples of young people engaging with Alexandra Palace and leaving an appropriate legacy on the physical fabric of the park and palace grounds, that enhance the visual appeal to a wider variety of visitors.

- 5.5 Creative Learning successfully bid for funds to support the development of Biblio-buzz: The Alexandra Palace Children's Book Awards to Tottenham Grammar Foundation for £6,000. The Team are busy applying for funds to continue the growth and development of this programme and event for the future.
- 5.6 On 12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> November, 34 young people from Fortismere and Haringey Sixth-Form took over the theatre, and made a physical theatre performance over the two days to commemorate the Centenary of the release of the internees.
- 5.7 The Transmitter Hall is currently being refurbished into a Wellbeing Centre, which will support people with dementia in navigating the space and enhance their sense of calm and wellness. The project is being delivered by Dulux and Tarkett Flooring worth approximately £70,000 of funding in-kind. AN additional in kind contribution came from 400 hours volunteered by 50 people from Akzo Nobel, to paint the space.
- 5.8 Looking ahead in December & January our focus will be on launching the Creativity Pavilion and the redecorated Transmitter Hall. The Pavilion will launch with an exhibition celebrating the inventions created by young people from across the world on our Little Inventors programme. Our 10 favourite designs will be made by the students from Middlesex University's Red loop Innovation Centre who are also creating four new STEAM workshops to coincide with the launch.
- 5.9 Portraits for Posterity is an exhibition of a group of photographs (approximately 12) mounted onto the walls in the Creativity Pavilion for 2 weeks from 21 January to 9 Feb. This is a project created by one of our volunteers and a friend-curator and aims to increase engagement with the local Jewish community and forms the basis of a learning strand around Holocaust Memorial day. The exhibition will include 2 framed portraits on loan from Haringey Museum & Archive of Roman and Susie Halter.

Our interpretation for the selection of portraits by Matt Writtle will explain a little about Holocaust Memorial Day, and focus on the way the initial project concept came about then how it changed/ developed. The motivations and connections that built up around the sitters are explained as well as the process of curating and sharing memories.

We hope to have one of the survivors say a few words at the launch event on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> and during the fortnight of the exhibition, to have a few talks/ slide show given by the photographer, curator and one of the sitters talking about the experience of putting this exhibition together.

- 5.10 Table 1 lists the Creative Learning events since the last meeting and upcoming events:

**Table 1 – Learning & Participation events**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Every Wednesday & Tuesday morning	Mini-movers, Baby Jazz, Baby Yoga	East Court
Every last Friday of the month	Coffee & Computers (free monthly drop-in session for older people)	East Court
Every Thursday afternoon	Singing for the Brain or Mindfulness Group	Transmitter Hall
Every first Monday of the month	Wellness Café	Transmitter Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> October	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) Tour	Theatre
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Back to Black	East Court
7 <sup>th</sup> , 12, 26 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Theatre Tours	East Court
14 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	School Visits	Transmitter Hall
13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	Palace Uncovered	Transmitter Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct & 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Volunteer Social	Park & Theatre
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Shed Jam – open mic night (Haringey Shed)	Transmitter Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan-9 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2020	Exhibition: Portraits for Posterity	Creativity Pavilion

## **6. West Yard Storage Building**

6.1 SAC/CC were invited to comment on a number of planning matters and a new planning application relating to a gate control panel in front of the NW Tower. Any comments received by SAC/CC members will be tabled at the meeting.

## **7. Events and Noise Management**

7.1 October saw 2 flagship exhibitions with Mind Body & Soul / Yoga show and Knitting and Stitching. Both were well received by both client and attendees.

7.2 There have been a number of high profile concerts over this period with nearly 120,000 visitors attending in total.

7.3 The Fireworks festival took place on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

7.4 Table 3 below lists the noise complaints calendar Year to Date (at the time of writing the report):

<b>Month</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>No. of complaints</b>
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	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Fireworks festival	8
	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> - AJ Tracey	6
	13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> Vampire Weekend	3
	21 <sup>st</sup> Mat DeMarco	5
	23 <sup>rd</sup> – D-Block	3

- 7.5 There were 8 complaints received over the 2 day Fireworks Festival from 5 different complainants. 11 local residents have submitted 17 complaints about event noise during the current busy concert season. Two of the complaints were during afternoon sound tests and one related to noise from people leaving site. The remaining complaints related to music noise before 11pm.
- 7.6 All of our events using amplified music are monitored by independent noise management consultants. Where a visit by the independent noise monitor has been agreed, all sound testing has been within the approved licensing limits.
- 7.7 Forthcoming events can be viewed online <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/>

## **8. Legal Implications**

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

## **9. Appendices - None**