



ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD
14th January 2020

Report Title: CEO's Report

Report of: Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

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. 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 published on 11th November. The public have been encouraged to provide feedback on the proposal via an online survey and drop-in sessions. Over 1900 survey responses had been submitted at the time of writing and all of the drop in sessions were attended by a small number of people, who were able to discuss the proposals and concerns with Trust staff.

2.1.2 There was a temporary technical issue reported over the Christmas break. The survey period has therefore been extended until 10th January and this was notified on social media. At the time of writing this report the survey was still live and so a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

2.2 Fundraising update

2.2.1 Unfortunately the application to the London Mayors Growth Fund, for the North East Office Building was not successful. We are awaiting detailed feedback.

2.2.2 The Trust was awarded a grant by Arts Council England (ACE) to support the continued delivery and growth of the Alexandra Palace Book Awards Programme – Biblio-Buzz. This is the first time the Trust has been in direct receipt of Arts Council Funding, to our knowledge. The Trust was also successful in its application to Tottenham Grammar Foundation to support this programme of work.

2.3 Corporate Trustee Grant Funding

2.3.1 The Board was consulted about the proposed cut to the grant it receives from its Corporate Trustee in 2020/21 at its meeting on 8th October and the SAC/CC were consulted on 3rd October. The Council's Budget Consultation, which runs through to Sunday 19 January 2020 can be viewed at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/policies-and-strategies/your-haringey-your-future>

2.3.2 On review of this budget consultation it has come to light that the cut in 2020/21 is not the only proposed cut. A further cut appears in the published information, of £100k in 2022/23 for future consultation with the Trust and consideration by the Council. Making a total proposed cut of £295k in the next 5 years. At the time of writing clarification has been sought. A verbal update may be given at the meeting.

2.4 A briefing for Local Councillors has been scheduled for Monday 27th January 2020 on all things Ally Pally and will include an update on the Governance Projects.

3. **Park Update**

3.1 Tree Planting

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. The project is going well and efforts have contributed to a total of 17 standard trees (2-3meters long) and 400 whips (unbranched young tree seedlings that have been grown for planting out) so far.

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.

3.2 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.

3.3 Street Lighting

3.3.1 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).

3.3.2 We now have a contractor in place and they have been working through the backlog of lighting issues, successfully replacing faulty lamps in the East car park, fault finding at the Alexandra Park Road entrance, repairing the lighting near the old railway bridge by the Dukes Avenue entrance and replacing the damaged columns on Alexandra Palace Way below the garden centre.

4. Restoration update

4.1 On 20th 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.

4.2 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. At the time of writing the Creativity Pavilion is expected to complete in the first week of January.

4.3 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. No comments were received.

5. Creative Learning

5.1 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.

5.2 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 Royal Albert Hall, Blenheim Palace and Crystal Palace Museum. This research culminated in a cross-department workshop attended by Bridget Nolan, Tour Manager from the Royal 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.

5.3 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.

- 5.4 On 12th & 14th 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.
- 5.5 The Transmitter Hall is currently being redecorated enabling it to become our 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 value in kind funding. An additional in-kind contribution came from 400 hours volunteered by 50 people from Akzo Nobel, to paint the space.
- 5.6 Looking ahead in January the focus will be on launching the Creativity Pavilion and the redecorated Transmitter Hall. The Creativity 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.
- 5.7 *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 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 21st and during the fortnight of the exhibition, to have a few talks/ slide show given by the photographer, curator and one of the portrait sitters talking about the experience of putting this exhibition together.

6. Collections

6.1 A Digital Asset Management System (DAM)

Building on the previous work to scan the newly discovered archive materials in 2017/18, the Interpretation & Collection Team have been working with our volunteers to scan all documents into a digital asset management system. The system is still being tested but will have an online public interface, eventually making our collection available to the public and a back end area for staff to access archive materials.

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The additional potential grant cut in 2022/23, mentioned above, will impact on the Trusts five-year financial forecast. The forecast is due to be updated in January 2020 as part of the work on the five-year plan. It is hoped that the Council will be in a position to confirm the funding position for 2020/21 early in the New Year.
- 8.2 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

9. Appendices - None