ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST
Board Panel Meeting
17 July 2020

Report Title: Temporary Variation of Park Events Licence

Report of: Louise Stewart, CEO

Purpose: This report seeks approval to apply for a temporary variation to the Park events licence to include the Pavilion car park for a period of 4 months.

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

1.   Recommendation

1.1   **To approve the submission of an application to vary the Alexandra Park Outdoor Events Licence for a period of 4 months.**

2.   Introduction and Background

2.1   Following consultation with the SAC/CC and local residents, in 2017 the Trust was granted a licence, which provided a framework for delivering outdoor events in the Park. Prior to this APTL (or a third party) was required to apply for a licence for each individual event or activity in the Park.

2.2   An Outdoor Events monitoring Framework was approved by the Trustee Board to ensure effective monitoring and management of potential impact of outdoor events on the Park, wildlife and local residents. The SAC/CC receive updates throughout the year on the impact of events and an annual report is produced. The 2019-20 Outdoor Monitoring Framework will be presented to the SAC/CC in September 2020.

3.   Reason for the decision

3.1   Obtaining a minor variation to the outdoor events licence to include the Pavilion will enable a series of small music events to take place over the August 2020 Bank Holiday weekend.

3.2   Indoor music events are unlikely to resume for some months and as the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions begin to be slowly lifted the Trading Subsidiary (APTL) is seeking new ways to generate income, in order to contribute its profits to the Trust as a charitable donation to support delivery of the charitable purposes.

3.2   The Pavilion comes under the Palace's separate venue licence, which allows 55db noise levels. To achieve the appropriate sound levels for the planned events 5db more is required, this is allowed by the outdoor events licence. This is a proposed temporary variation for a period of 4 months to enable a series of small scale outdoor events to take place.

3.3   The Pavilion has a capacity of 7,000 people and enables outdoor events with less impact on the parkland due to the hard standing surface. If the short term licence variation is granted, the intention is to hold events between the hours of 14.00-20.00 with a maximum of 2,500 tickets sold per day and noise levels not exceeding 60db, to limit the impact on the local community.

3.4   In summary this is not new activity, last year's Norman Jay event on the Pavilion site is similar to the events being planned for this year. It is simply that the event requires the slightly higher db level than the Palace venue licence permits, because it is essentially designed for indoor events. The Park Licence allows this slightly higher level, due to the nature of the behaviour of sound in the outdoor environment.

4.   Consultation

4.1   The views of the Advisory Committee (SAC) and Consultative Committee (CC) on were sought on 13 July 2020 and at the time of writing no objections have been received. Two SAC/CC members replied to the consultation seeking clarification on some points including:
-      When the licence application would be submitted.
       If board approval is obtained the application is likely to be submitted on Monday 20th July and a 10 day consultation period will begin soon after.
-      If granted, what time will events in the Pavilion finish?

5.   Risks

5.1   The government guidelines now permit outdoor performances, subject to Covid protocols being followed. Indoor events of this type remain prohibited.

5.2   If the licence variation is granted it is intended to hold small events over the 4 days of the August Bank Holiday weekend, which will close at 20.00 on each day to minimise impact. For context, noise levels will be lower than the Kaleidoscope Festival.

5.3   The Park has a limited number events that can take place and the Pavilion will be included in this limit, therefore the number of events will not be exceeded but the team will have greater flexibility as to where they can be held.

5.4   Impact assessment on wildlife

   5.4.1   The main breeding season for bats will be over by August and no issues
           have been raised in this respect. Ecologists do recommend two consecutive
           event nights as a maximum and further assessment is being conducted. As
           the Bank Holiday Weekend events are scheduled to finish before dusk, and
           no additional production lighting will be installed, the impact on foraging bats
           (pipistrelle are known to forage in the Pavilion area) is not expected to cause
           concern.

   5.4.2   Since writing to the SAC & CC consultation with a bat ecologist has
           confirmed that since the events are scheduled to finish before dusk and no
           additional lighting will be used there should be no impact on bats even with
           four consecutive days of events.

6.   Legal Implications

6.1   The Council's Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been
       consulted in the preparation of this report, and, in noting that the successful
       outcome to what is proposed is said to fall within the ambits of both (1) the
       announcement made by the Culture Secretary on 9th July 2020 in relation to the
       ability to resume performing arts outdoors from 11th July 2020 with a socially
       distanced audience present, and (2) the Board approved Outdoor Events
       Monitoring Framework, has no comments.

7.   Financial Implications

7.1   The application to vary the licence will have an administrative cost of under £100
       but obtaining the variation will enable income to be generated by the Trading
       Company therefore securing Gift Aid donation for the Trust if profit is achieved by
       the events.

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

8.   Use of Appendices

       Appendix 1 – 29 Sept 2016 Board resolution
       Appendix 2 – 2020 FAQs

9.   Background Papers
       29 September 2016 APPCT Board papers (available on request)