



## ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD

14 December 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

To note the content of this report.

### 2. Governance

#### Changes to Board Members

Due to changes to elected member appointments at Haringey Council, the Trust welcomed Cllr Mike Hakata and Cllr Elin Weston on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 as the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the APPCT Board.

### 3. Repairs & Maintenance

#### Public Areas

- Ice Rink reopening works included reflective ceiling repairs, rink pad painting and application of the AP Monogram, new perimeter kicker plates, ice reinstated, ice pit and sump waterproofing and drainage survey, stud flooring repairs throughout skate hire and Café, redecoration by stands and to doors and East Corridor plinths, render repairs to plinths to Cafe/Reception and part Ice Rink, overhaul of roof lanterns over Reception, re-plastering of west staircase, and installation of sink and hot water to skate hire.
- East Corridor temporary reception desk, new Ice Rink signage, and partial redecoration.
- Great Hall abseil glazing survey, abseil inspections and welding repairs to external spaceframes including sample decoration panel, repairs to floor expansion joints (and minor filming damage).
- East Court and Theatre - Final snagging works from East Wing Restoration Project, servicing of vents and joist hanger strengthening to Theatre ceiling.
  - Panorama Room - Abseil cleaning of valley gutter to fabric roof and snagging works for basement project.
- Covid measures to Ice Rink, West Hall and Palm Court, including screens and sanitizers units.
- Periodic inspections to front elevations.
- Pitch & Putt - Repairs and redecoration

## Back of House

- West Yard Building - Installation of cage over lift shaft and commissioning of goods lift.
- West Yard - Installation of trough sink for contractors/staff.
- North Yard/GH Bridge - Structural survey and CAD drawings.
- North Yard/Palace Suite - Commence dismantling of redundant chiller plant.
- BBC Tower - Ceiling propping and repair to 4th floor, and partial office re-plastering and redecoration.
- Periodic inspections to rear elevations.

## **4. Covid update**

### 4.1 Anti-social behavior and Alexandra Palace Way

Despite the closure of parking bays, evening and night time drivers and anti-social behaviour (ASB) is now blocking a lane of Alexandra Place Way some evenings. We remain in dialogue with the Police about measures to be taken. Crimes and anti-social behaviour should be reported to the local authority's dedicated ASB Team (Tel 020 8489 1335) and the Police.

The road was closed around fireworks weekend to prevent an anticipated increase in ASB particularly related to setting off fireworks illegally in the grounds, which is a risk to the building and public safety. The measures were effective at keeping ASB levels low.

### 4.2 Visitor Services

The Palace remains largely closed and the visitor services team continues to operate with limited staff. Calls are diverted to a mobile phone and, if the visitor services assistant is already on a call, the line rings out, when it would normally be diverted to another telephone line. We encourage anyone who has difficulty getting through by telephone at the current time to use the 'Contact Us' form on our website:

<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/contact/get-in-touch/#:~:text=Should%20you%20have%20any%20concerns,2121>.

### 4.3 Culture Recovery Fund

At the time of writing this report the Trust was waiting on the outcome of its application to the Culture Recovery Fund. Although some announcements have been made, the announcements for the strand of the CRF that the Trust applied for have yet to be made.

## **5. Park**

5.1 The Park has won the Green Flag Award for the thirteenth year. The mast was lit green on 14 October to show support for parks and green spaces and the dedicated staff and volunteers who maintain them.

5.2 The Park also received a Green Heritage Award for the eleventh straight year. Supported by Historic England, this is given in recognition of achieving the required standard in the management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance. To receive Green Heritage Accreditation, sites must also achieve the Green Flag Award. This is in addition to the Park achieving 3 gold awards from London in Bloom announced earlier in the year for: Large Park, Heritage Park and Conservation Area.

5.3 These awards are set against the backdrop of lockdown and increased pressure as visitor numbers increased dramatically. An estimated 2.8 million people visited between May and September, an increase of almost 90% in the period, compared to the average for the last three years. The Alexandra Park team, assisted by over 100 volunteers, have collected more than 100 tonnes of rubbish during the same period, up almost sixty percent.

## 6. Heritage and Interpretation

Our volunteers continue to support us in responding to enquiries and requests for information about the collections and heritage. For those interested we recommend a visit to our blog pages to explore the archive as well as a piece from one of our volunteers on the history and stories of the 'living museum' here at the Park and Palace. <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/about-us/blog/#>

## 7. Creative Learning

7.1 The Creative Learning team continue to deliver online and face to face outdoor activity and is launching a new programme in partnership with three residential homes where artists will visit and to talk to occupants through their windows.

7.2 The team is also working with Haringey library service, connecting with Black History Month and providing programmes around identity politics (linking the arts and politics) and guidance for young people who want to launch into the music industry.

7.3 The Big Schools SEND (Special Education Needs & Disability) launches in November. Schools are being invited to create a dance with workshops supported by partners Parade and artists. The dance videos will be published on line before Christmas.

7.4 The Little Inventors programme is live, challenging under 16s to design something to support wildlife in the Park. The winners' inventions will be made and displayed in the Creative Learning Zone area of the park (the old deer enclosure).

7.5 Two Creative Learning wellbeing programmes were included in the recent national Heritage Alliance report on heritage and wellbeing engagement activities.

## 8. Events

### 8.1 Silver Access Service Award

In October Alexandra Palace was awarded silver status by Attitude is Everything <http://www.attitudeiseverything.org.uk/> a Music Industry standard for accessibility and visitor experience.

8.2 After deliberation thorough assessment, internally and with our partners, the decision was taken to cancel the Fireworks Festival for 2020. Despite exploring several different approaches to produce a covid safe event it is simply not viable to hold the event this year.

8.3 We launched Live at Ally Pally in October, a season of indoor and socially distanced events in the Palace's West Hall. Comedy, live music and alternative theatre are on offer from 15<sup>th</sup> October with Al Murray and running into December. Crucially, these will be the first public events inside the Palace in over six months. Live at Ally Pally will be an important test case for us as we try to expand what we can offer. We are one of the few

venues in the country to be hosting such an ambitious programme, and it is a credit to everyone who has worked on the project to get it to this stage.

- 8.4 The ice rink reopened to the public on 1<sup>st</sup> October for the first time since lockdown began. The public opening follows a successful period during which the ice rink team facilitated the return of professional skating sessions and ice hockey training. Extra measures have been put in place to ensure that rink visitors are socially distanced according to latest Government guidelines.
- 8.5 Drive in Opera with the English National Opera's (ENO) La Boheme received universal acclaim and rave reviews, including a breath-taking screening on Sky Arts.
- 8.6 World-renowned photographer and artist Spencer Tunick chose the Park and Palace as the backdrop for his work, titled Everyone Together, in partnership with Sky Arts. Featuring 220 volunteer models, the image was used as the main visual to announce that the Sky Arts TV channel is now on Freeview.
- 8.7 A series of films will be screened in theatre, including the online stream of Nick Cave that was filmed earlier in the year in the West Hall. Dates to be confirmed.
- 8.8 We launched our Christmas programme including 47 performances of the Gruffalo's child, Christmas films, ice skating & Santa's grotto. Like all of our events at the moment, our teams have worked hard to create a covid secure, socially distanced environment for people to enjoy live performances.

## **9. Legal Implications**

- 9.1 The Council's Interim Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted on this report and has no comments.

## **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. Appendices**

None

## **12. Background documents**

None