



## ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST

### BOARD MEETING

29 MARCH 2021

**Report Title:** CEO's Report

**Report of:** Louise Stewart, CEO APPCT

**Purpose:** This report updates the Board of Trustees on current issues and projects at Alexandra Park and Palace.

#### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A

#### **1. Recommendation**

1.1 To note the content of this report.

#### **2. Alexandra Park Licence Variation**

- 2.1 As indoor music events are unlikely to resume for some months the Trust is applying for a licence variation to provide the Trading Subsidiary (APTL) with opportunities to generate income, to provide funds to the Trust, to support delivery of the charitable purposes.
- 2.2 The proposals included amending the licensable area of the Parkland to include the East & Pavilion Car Parks (currently under the Palace Licence) and Pitch and Putt area; allow an unlimited number of small scale licensable events for under 600 attendees, increase events permitted over 55Db level from 4 events at 65Db to 5 and from 0 events at 70db to 4, and to sell alcohol as part of an improved food and beverage offer across the Park site.
- 2.3 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. Our stakeholder committees (SAC & CC) receive updates throughout the year and an annual report is produced.
- 2.4 The SAC/CC were consulted on the proposed recommendations for the licence variation on 15 March 2021 and provided advice to the Board (summarised at Item 7 of this agenda).
- 2.5 A special APPCT Panel meeting was convened on the rise of the SAC/CC on 15 March. A timely decision was required to allow the application to be submitted to the Licencing Authority, to support 2021/22 business planning and to facilitate negotiations with event promoters and funders about programming in the Park.

- 2.6 If the licence variation is not granted by the licensing authority, the ability of APTL to return to profitability in the next 12-18 months will be impacted and in turn affect the timescale in which it is able to make a donation of any profit made to the Trust.
- 2.7 After consideration of the issues and feedback provided by the SAC and the CC the APPCT Board Panel resolved to proceed with the licence variation application in the best interests of the Trust. However, the Trustees noted the reasonable concerns of the Committees and requested that the team take on board the comments and keep the Committee members and the Board up to date with arrangements for litter collection and toilet provision; liaise with the Friends of the Park to discuss areas where events will and will not be taking place.
- 2.8 In addition the Trust has asked the team to undertake work on internal caps on the number of small scale event days that the Board will implement to ensure the intensity and frequency of events is in balance with all uses of the park. The team are also considering an internal cap on the number of small scale events that require amplified sound. The caps will be monitored by the Trustee Board and will not be breached without Board approval. This approach in relation to internal caps was put in place for the original park licence and so far approval to go above this has not been requested. Details of the number of park events large and small scale will be added to the annual monitoring information shared with the Board and the SAC/CC.

### **3. Car Parking and Enforcement**

#### **3.1 Car Park Charging Project**

We are progressing with the project and expect that there will be a slight delay to implementation, which is now scheduled to be the end of June 2021. However the donate to park scheme will remain in place until then.

- 3.2 To address the wilful obstruction of the highway on Alexandra Palace which has increases in recent months Parking Enforcement has now been implemented. The impact has already been noticeable with a reduction in cars on the road blocking the passage of the W3 and causing issues for other users of the road and park. We will continue to monitor the situation.

### **4. Traveller Encampment**

- 4.1 In the early hours of 17 March a small group of Travellers gained access to, and set up an encampment in the Paddock Car Park at Alexandra Palace opposite the Covid Testing Centre. Five vehicles were in the camp for the most part of the day.
- 4.2 The Trust swiftly implemented its Traveller Protocol and deployed security personnel to prevent further vehicles arriving on the encampment and also placed temporary concrete blocks to prevent further encroachment into the Paddocks car park or elsewhere in the Park.
- 4.3 Due to the significant impact the encampment had on the access to the Covid testing centre, the local police were on hand throughout the day, while the Trust began the process of obtaining a high court order as soon as possible, which has proved to be the most effective route in the past.
- 4.4 The Trust is pleased to report that the Travellers left the site on the evening of the same day on which they arrived, with only a small amount of litter left on the site.

## 5. Fundraising

Two crowdfunding projects are currently live through the Spacehive website and are detailed below.

### 5.1 Artists walk

The Creative Learning Team aim to create spaces for Haringey artists to showcase their work in an Art Trail. A map will be available through the Alexandra Palace website to guide visitors around the works and link back to the artists involved. The project requires £5,314 and it runs until 11 May 2021. More information is available at: <https://www.spacehive.com/alexandrapalace> .

The 2020 Art Trail (displayed from windows of the Palace) was extended during the third lockdown to provide animation for people taking daily exercise in the Park. Most of the work is likely to be taken down at the end of March or early in April and may be replaced by a photography exhibition created via the young people's programme. The Team hope to continue to partner with the Art Trail team on an annual basis and create opportunities for the young people programming team to commission work.

### 5.2 Ice Rink Plexiglas Screen

The team have launched a campaign to fund the installation of a Plexiglas screen around the Ice Rink to provide a safer and covid-secure ice hockey environment. At the time of writing this report £15,455 has been pledged and there is an opportunity to secure match funding to reach the £94,459 target. To support, please visit <https://www.spacehive.com/ally-pally-ice-hockey-screen> .

## 6. Culture Recovery Fund Progress update

- 6.1 At the Board meeting on 26 January 2021 the Board received information about the Trust's Culture Recovery Fund award of £2.9m.
- 6.2 The grant conditions were as follows: 50% of the grant paid up front, 40% on submission of progress report, 10% on submission of final report.
- 6.3 APPCT has now submitted the progress report to NLHF and received the next 40% of the grant into our bank account. The total spending submitted was slightly over the 50% threshold, based on permitted spending categories for the CRF, with the bulk of the grant covering staffing costs, site security, utilities and repair / conservation costs.
- 6.4 Initially, the CRF was designed to finish by 31 March 2021 and all spending was to be accounted for by this time. However, in January applications were invited for Round 2 and the scheme was extended until June 2021. An additional £300m in grants was also announced.
- 6.5 APPCT has been granted permission to defer £229,000 of its original grant to cover spending in April-June 2021. This is in recognition of lockdown restrictions causing unavoidable delays to some project spending.
- 6.6 Due to the furlough scheme being extended beyond the original October 2020 cut-off date, some staff costs have also been deferred to April-June and permission was sought to move some spending between permitted categories, as we adapt to a

changing landscape and subsequent lockdowns since our original application was submitted.

- 6.7 The overall grant is capped at a maximum of £3m per organisation. As we are already close to this limit we have not applied for any additional funding from this source.

## **7. Lighting the mast**

- 7.1 We have lit the Mast in support of various organisations over the year.

- 7.2 Events included:

- 4 July 2020 – 72 Years NHS celebration
- 10 Aug & 30 Sept 2020 – ‘Light it Red’ awareness of event venues that may not reopen
- 14 October 2020 – Green Flag Award support for parks and green spaces
- 7 December 2020 – Green for NSPCC Christmas Campaign
- 8 December 2020 – Yellow for Grief Awareness Week
- 4 & 11 February 2021 – Light it Blue for the NHS campaign
- 22 February 2021 – in red for World Encephalitis Day
- 17 March 2021 – Orange to highlight the need for an end to violence against women.

- 7.3 All external requests to light the mast follow the same application process and are assessed for their appropriateness for the Trust to support. We are limited on the number of days a year we are able to light the mast and the times it can be lit.

## **8. Kaleidoscope 2021**

The festival, developed and delivered by the in house team, is programmed to return on Saturday 24 July 2021.

## **9. Legal Implications**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 9.2 Due to the late preparation of this report the Council’s Head of Legal & Governance (interim) was consulted after the agenda publication date and, therefore, any comments will be tabled or circulated in advance of the meeting.

## **10. Financial Implications**

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 10.3 The Council’s Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comment to make.

## **11. Use of Appendices**

None

## **10. Background Papers**

15 March 2021 APPCT Special Panel meeting documents.