



ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD

12 July 2021

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 and Strategy updates

2.1 Covid Update

2.1.1 The building remains closed to the general public. Plans are in place for bringing staff back to the workplace when guidance allows.

2.1.2 The Covid Testing Centres continue in the Paddocks and the Transmitter Hall.

2.1.3 Creative Learning activities are happening on site.

2.2 Enforcement on AP Way

Traffic marshals continue to patrol Alexandra Palace Way at night time and in most cases vehicles are moving on when asked to do so. The security team are still recording up to 9 vehicles a night parked in restricted areas, often around the West Yard Slip Road, The Grove and at the bottom of the steps to the South Terrace. This is significantly less than the 30-50 cars that blocked AP Way each night prior to the intervention. We will assess the impact of the pilot scheme in due course and share the results with the Trustee Board. The timetable for this is not yet confirmed.

2.3 Financial Position

The Trustee Board approved the 2021/22 Group Budget at its meeting on 29 March 2021. A quarter 1 financial performance report will be presented at the next meeting.

2.4 Car Park Charging Implementation

- 2.4.1 The project is progressing although it is now expected to be in place at the end of the current financial year. The delay is due to change in the procurement route, which started as a framework procurement but during the process it became clear that this route would not provide an appropriate solution needed for our complex site.
- 2.4.2 Haringey Council's Procurement team have provided the Trust with expert support. A restricted procurement process is now live via Haringey Council's Procurement service.
- 2.4.3 The Procurement timeline is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Car Parking Procurement Timeline

Stage 1: Publish Selection Questionnaire (SQ)	28.6.21
Deadline for SQ submissions	30.7.21
Evaluate SQs	2.8.21 – 3.9.21
Inform all parties who submitted forms of the results	6.9.21
Stage 2: Send ITT to successful contractors	13.9.21
Deadline for Tender submission	15.10.21
Notify result to all bidders	14.12.21
Anticipated Contract Start Date	1.3.22

- 2.3.4 The impact on the current year's Trust budget will be mitigated by retaining the donate to park scheme until car park charging is introduced. Our communications around donate to park will explain that the Trust will be extending this temporary measure as essential to its financial health and to be able to afford to keep the car parks safely open.

2.4 Park Licence Variation

Following direct engagement with the Chair of the Friends of the Park, and associated groups party to the single representation received by then licensing authority, the Trust amended its licence variation application to specify an annual limit of 300 event days for small events (for events of less than 600 attendees). The Friends of the Park withdrew their representation and the licence variation was approved by the Licensing Authority.

The Park Manager and Events Team are committed to liaising with the Friends of the Park when planning events to help minimise the impact on the Park and the different park user groups.

2.5 East Wing Restoration Project Closure

Earlier in the year the Trust received confirmation of the final payment for the Rebuilding the People's Palace/East Wing project from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and the grant has been officially closed in their files.

2.6 Planning Applications

- 2.6.1 The Trust submitted planning and advertising applications in April for proposals: to upgrade the external signage in the Park; to make improvements to the outdoor beer garden and to install an outdoor composting toilet in the Old Deer enclosure. The application was time sensitive as the funding to implement some of the initiatives was linked to the Culture Recovery Fund.

2.6.2 Some queries were raised during the local planning authority's statutory consultation including concerns raised by the Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) on the advertising proposals. These have been discussed with the Chair of CAAC who was understanding of the timing issue. It was acknowledged that the Trust would aim when possible to liaise with CAAC in advance of applications being made.

2.6.3 The Council's conservation officer objected to the proposal to insert eyelets into the Palace wall for the festoon lighting in the outdoor beer garden.

2.6.4 We have responded to the CAAC queries and will be submitting alternative plans for the festoon lighting and hope to receive a formal decision soon.

2.7 Crowdfunding update

The ambitious campaign to raise £94,242 for plexi-glass screens in the Ice Rink raised only £27,555 and was therefore unsuccessful. We are incredibly grateful to all those who pledged towards the fund.

The campaign to fundraise towards the 2021 Artists Walk at Alexandra Palace raised £5,665 (exceeding its £5,000 target) and has received £5,000 match funding from the Mayor of London as part of the Make London campaign. The trail displaying local artists' work was installed is now in place and will remain available around the Park and Palace throughout July and August. A map will be available on the Alexandra Palace website to guide visitors around the works and link to the artists involved.

3. **Repairs & Maintenance**

3.1 Street Lighting

We have been working through the backlog of faulty street lamps across the site, including the east car park, the Alexandra Park Road entrance and near the old railway bridge by the Dukes Avenue entrance. The lights rely on very dated infrastructure and regularly fail but a major overhaul is unlikely to be within the Trust's budget capability for many years.

3.2 Capital Works

At the time of writing, we were preparing to start the West Hall rewiring project, West Hall lighting project and the upgrade to the Great Hall, West Hall and Palm Court Fire detection system. Undertaking the works whilst the building is closed will low the risk of disruption to the September events and activities programme.

3.3 Roof & Glazing repairs/ replacements

Completed:

- Glazed lanterns in Palm Court Suites
- Ice Café/ Ice Rink Reception Roof - Smoke Vents reglazing
- Ice rink roof leak repairs (to Ice Café/Ice Rink South)
- Palm Court Glazing servicing (as part of the ongoing glazing repairs project)

3.4 Redecoration/ refurbishments and infrastructure upgrade progress

- Installation of power supply from the Panorama Room to the Outdoor beer garden
- Redecoration of high level south west corner of the Great Hall and lower level of the East Hall.
- Great Hall: cleaning of high level walls/columns, ledges and Pigeon guano spot/abseil cleaning fabric canopies and walkways, repair to overhead door
- West Hall cleaning of high level ledges, steel & windows

3.5 Other work completed

- Upgrades to building management systems and replacement insulation on all roof ventilation ducts for energy efficiency and cost reduction.
- Ice Rink inverter supply fan replaced and new CO2 sensors installed and commissioned.
- Renewed asphalt to steps/bridge landing, structural repairs to bridge arches, cast iron columns and beams
- Replacement of the kitchen extract for the Ice Rink kitchen hood
- North Yard Vehicle gate repairs and intercom upgrade (Quotation Ref: 78368)
- BBC Tower & Bar & Kitchen intruder alarm upgrades
- Theatre Distribution board for theatre stage power replaced
- Lighting in the TV studios

4. **Park**

- 4.1 The Park continues to be busy and is benefiting from the extra litter collections as a result of the Park catering units that have been operating since March.
- 4.2 The Park team continue with day to day maintenance and tree management, with some dangerous trees being removed at the start of the financial year. In February they worked with the Friends of Alexandra Park (FOAP) and TCV (Tree Conservation Volunteers) to create a new pond in the Grove (funded by the restoration levy), which now has tadpoles.
- 4.3 The Oak Processionary Moth is back in the Park, the caterpillars feed on the leaves of the oak trees and can cause serious damage but more serious is the risk to humans. The caterpillars and their nests are covered in tiny hairs which can cause skin rashes, eye irritation and sore throats.

5. **Creative Learning**

- 5.1 The Creative Learning Team continued to produce online resources throughout March including the latest Wellness Café resource, A Garden on a Dish, created with artist Sally Hart on how to make decorative displays using found objects and accessible plants.
- 5.2 Virtual activities were delivered including monthly coffee and computers Zoom and the Rhythm Stick Club Night, curated by and for adults with disabilities, which took place on Zoom in March but would normally have taken place in the Theatre.
- 5.2 A second Fam Fayre young carers family activity weekend took place and we launched a series of animation workshops for the young carers in April, where they learnt to produce short films.

- 5.3 The team also launched (RE)EMERGING, new programme inviting young artists and creatives to submit work in any art form, medium or style which they have created over the past 12 months, the work will reflect and celebrate their resilience, adaptability and vision. The selected artists received £50 and the opportunity to showcase their work at Ally Pally, join the Young Creatives Network and attend number of creative surgeries that were held throughout May.
- 5.4 To compliment the (RE)EMERGING programme a number of one-off Creative Surgery workshops were offered to encourage as many young artists (16-24 year olds) and creatives as possible to attend – even if they hadn't submitted any work as part of the showcase event. The young people could gain one-to-one feedback from industry professionals and look at the different art forms of spoken word, song writing and theatre and performance skills.
- 5.5 The New Decade photography exhibition ran for a month from May. It combined a trail of four exhibition spaces around Ally Pally with a full virtual exhibition online on the website. The project showcases work from team of young creatives, inspired by Zoom workshops with Artist Alejandra Carles-Tolra, who encouraged participants to explore this last year of their lives in lockdown.
- 5.6 In June the team held a new outdoor event, the Poetry Picnic, led by poet Simon Mole and musician Gecko for children aged 6 and over. Five young creatives who took part in previous poetry workshops were invited to perform their poems at the event.
- 5.7 Table 1 lists the Creative Learning events since the last meeting and coming up

Table 1 – Creative Learning events since March

DATES	Event	Location
10 March	Culture Bubble creative activism webinar	Virtual
Throughout May & June 2021	Haringey Tuition Service (3 days a week)	Creativity Pavilion
	Weekly Forest School	Deer Enclosure
	Weekly Haringey Young Carers events	Creativity Pavilion
	The Brook	
June	Photography Walking Tour	Various
2-6 June	Poetry Picnic Workshop	Creativity Pavilion / Deer Enclosure
11, 25 June 8-9 July	Giant Tree climbing Song Sessions	Park
17, 18, 21, 22, 29 June	Crouch End Theatre Company Rehearsals & performance	Theatre
21-22 June	Creative Learning Theatre Workshop	Theatre
1 July-30 August	Artists Walk Installation	
Monthly	Coffee & Computers (free monthly drop-in session for older people)	Virtual Events
	Wellness Café	

6. Activities and Events

- 6.1 Subject to the Government's announcement on 12 July on whether the restrictions on large gatherings will be lifted, Kaleidoscope 2021 festival, developed and delivered by the in house team, is programmed to return on Saturday 24 July 2021.
- 6.2 Due to the pandemic restrictions preventing indoor events The Cycle Show is unable to take place as planned. Instead it will operate as an outdoor event 'on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 August 2021 with cycle paths in the Pavilion Car Park and the East Side of the South Slope. The areas will be in use for 6 days in total and the Park Manager is comfortable with the arrangement.
- 6.3 Other events are scheduled to resume in September as listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Confirmed Large Events

DATE	Event	Location
10 July	Weekly Park Run resumes	Park
25 July	Kaleidoscope	Park
7-22 August	StrEATlife	Park
14-15 August	Cycle Show	Park (S.Slope & Pavilion)
26-29 August	Live music event	Park
23-25 Sept	Dermot Kennedy	Great Hall
28 Sept	Exhibition	Great Hall
30 Sept	Tom Grennan (concert)	Great Hall & West Hall
1 Oct	Yungblud (concert)	Great Hall & West Hall
7-10 Oct	The Knitting and Stitching Show	Great Hall & West Hall
24 Oct	Antiques Show	Great Hall
29 Oct	DMA's (concert)	Great Hall & West Hall
30 Oct	Bauhaus (concert)	Great Hall & West Hall
5-6 Nov	Fireworks	Park
11 Nov	Suede (concert)	Great & West Hall
12-13 Nov	London Grammar (concert)	Great & West Hall
19 Nov	Glass Animals (concert)	Great & West Hall
26 Nov	SIX60 (concert)	Great & West Hall
6-9 Dec	Mosconi Cup	West Hall
15 Dec – 1 Jan	Darts	Great & West Hall
6-12 Dec	Christmas on Ice	Ice Rink

Table 3 Theatre shows

17 July	Crouch End Festival
2-29 August	Gruffalo
6-7 Sept	John Grant concert
16 Sept	Phil Wang Book Launch (spoken word)
18 Sept	Music From The Movies (classical concert)
25 Sept	Adam Kay - This is Going to Hurt
26 Sept	Yotam Ottolenghi
22-23 Oct	Simon Amstell comedy
9 Nov	Lady Anne Glenconner
11 Nov	Black Midi (concert)
14 Nov	Iain Stirling: Failing Upwards NHS show (comedy)
15 Nov	Tommy Tiernan: tomfoolery (comedy)
17 Nov	Giovanna Fletcher(spoken word)
18 Nov	Kandace Springs (concert)
26 Nov-9 Jan	A Christmas Carol

- 6.4 More information on forthcoming events can be viewed online
<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/>

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 The Council's Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted on this report and has no comment.

8. Financial Implications

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

9. Appendices

None