



# **ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE JOINT MEETING OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES**

**16 AUGUST 2021**

**Report Title:** CEO's Report

**Report of:** Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

**Purpose:** This report updates the committees 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. Covid - 19 Update**

- 2.1 The building remains closed to the general public other than for specific events and activities, including the East Court. This is to make sure that we take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers and attendees. We are constantly adapting procedures to take account of changing government guidance and recommendations, emerging industry best practice and general attitudes of the public.
- 2.2 Although many operational staff have been on site throughout the pandemic to look after the building and its infrastructure as well as deliver a limited number of activities, many staff have remained working remotely. These members of staff will be gradually returning to site over the coming months.
- 2.3 The Covid (Lateral flow) testing centre in the Transmitter Hall closed operations on 11 July. The PCR testing centre remains operational but is expected to cease operation on 20 September 2021.
- 2.4 Our main events season is expected to return as scheduled in September and continue as per our normal season throughout the Winter months into spring, although we are aware that the situation in relation to restrictions on public gatherings may change.
- 2.5 The impact of the pandemic on the Trust's finances has been significant and although emergency funds and donations have enabled us to keep operating, and undertake critical repair, resilience and reopening works, the Trust is likely to have to make some difficult decisions about what works and activities can be funded in the next five years.

### 3.0 Planning Applications

A decision on the applications brought to the SAC and CC on 15 March 2021 is expected early in September. Matters raised during the consultation process are provided below and, as all three projects were submitted in one planning application, all questions/ issues must be resolved before the Planning Officers are able to provide a formal decision.

a. Advertisement Consent and Planning Consent to update external signage in Alexandra Park and on Alexandra Palace Way

There were no objections to the application for Advertising Consent. However, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) made a submission including the following:

- the monolith design (risks of damage and litter)
- the proposed font and type of content.
- the number of lamppost banners being applied for & the impact on views.

Alexandra Palace has responded to all the concerns raised and these are attached at Appendix 1.

b. Planning and Listed Building Consent for additional seating, shading structures, festoon lighting and planting in the outdoor beer garden

No objections were raised in relation to the application to install additional canopies and furniture.

Historic England and Haringey's Conservation Area Officer have objected to the request to drill into the Palace external wall to install 7 permanent eyelets for the festoon lighting. A meeting will take place in August to answer planners questions on the alternative design submitted in July. This uses temporary scaffolding and concrete blocks. The planning officer has been extremely supportive and the delay is merely a result of planned annual leave.

c. Planning and Listed Building Consent for Composting Toilet Facility in the Old Deer Enclosure

No objections were raised and planners have indicated approval, in principle.

### 4.0 Licensing Update

4.1 The licence variation presented to the SAC/CC on 15 March 2021 has been approved, following a meeting between Alexandra Palace management and the Chair of the Friends of Alexandra Park to discuss concerns raised. As a result the application was amended to specify an annual limit of 300 event days for small events (less than 600 attendees).

4.3 Management and the Chair of the Friends of the Park have also agreed on a zoning of the park to protect the parkland and wildlife from unnecessary damage and disturbance. The plan is now being drawn up.

## **5.0 Dukes Avenue Bridge**

- 5.1 In June 2020 we informed the SAC/CC that the Trust had responded to the Department for Transport (DfT) about the possibility of the bridge being demolished, due to its deterioration rate and for public safety.
- 5.2 The Trust expressed that the permitted development route should not be utilised if DfT decided that demolition was the correct treatment for the bridge and that, as a heritage structure, consideration be given to future heritage interpretation of the area, in what is left standing and the landscaping of the area.
- 5.3 In June 2021 the DfT have delayed any action relating to the demolition or infill of any railway structures until an engagement process (expected this autumn) has taken place and the views a stakeholders and local authorities will be taken into account. We have also been informed that Bat surveys will be conducted at the bridge on Monday 9 August.

## **6.0 Crowdfunding update**

- 6.1 The ambitious campaign to raise £94,242 for plexi-glass screens in the Ice Rink raised £27,555 and was therefore unsuccessful. We are incredibly grateful to all those who pledged towards the fund. The way in which the crowdfunding platforms operate means that the funds are only collected if the campaign is successful.
- 6.2 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 available on the Alexandra Palace website to guide visitors around the works and link to the artists involved.

## **7.0 Repairs & Maintenance**

- 7.1 The roof glazing works reported at previous meetings as underway are almost finished, with only the snagging to complete.
- 7.2 The West Hall rewiring project, West Hall lighting project and the upgrade to the Great Hall, West Hall and Palm Court Fire detection system projects are all underway and currently on schedule to be completed before the spaces are required for programmed events.
- 7.3. Other work completed:
  - Power supply installation 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

- 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

## 8.0 Park

8.1 The Park continues to be busy throughout each day of the week as people continue to benefit from the range of experiences on offer both passive and active recreation.

8.2 The team are pursuing funding opportunities to address drainage issues and other projects to improve the park and its infrastructure although competition for funds is extremely high and the funding criteria or funding pot size is not always suitable for the Trust.

8.3 The combination of tarmac surfaced path, weather conditions and event traffic has caused the path running down the south slope to the Paddocks car park to rupture, causing a very uneven surface. There was already rupturing on the surface of this path. The lower part of the path was recently repaired and is faring well. The rupturing on the upper part of the path now needs attention. At the time of writing quotes are being obtained, although availability of funds may prevent the repair work being undertaken quickly.

8.4 In 2018/19 the Trust shared with SAC/CC its intention to look at introducing licencing for professional dog walkers in Alexandra Park. This has been in place at other parks for several years and more recently Hampstead Heath have consulted on introducing a scheme. The introduction of schemes in other parks, the increase in dog ownership and dog walking services has created a concern that the Park may come under greater pressure from professional dog walking services. As pointed out in the earlier paper the Trust should be charging professional dog walkers to use the site as we do all other commercial users. We are currently developing the proposal and will consult with park users and professional dog walkers. We are currently working on an appropriate timeline.

## 9. Creative Learning

9.1 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.

9.2 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.

- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 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.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 Our Creative Learning team have joined forces with artist and curator Alice White for a Protest Print workshop. Young People aged 16-24 can learn linocut, explore typography and create their own poster campaign. They will also explore the democratic history of print and radical educators and artists such as Sister Corita Kent, Paul Peter Piech and the Lenthall Road Print Workshop.
- 9.8 July saw the culmination of a month long Creative Learning project that encouraged young people from Haringey to create scripts for alternative endings to their favourite fairy tales. Funded by the Arts Council, Everyone's A Playwright, was led by Crouch End Youth Theatre & Film Company and ultimately featured the young peoples' scripts being performed by professional actors in the Theatre and Creativity Pavilion.
- 9.9 Table 1 below lists the Creative Learning events since the last meeting and coming up.

**Table 1 – Creative Learning events since March**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
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 -30 July	Artists Walk Installation	
<b>August Creativity Camps:</b>		
2-6 August	Outdoors Theatre	Der Enclosure/ Creativity Pavilion
9-13 August	Outdoors Junk Orchestra	
16-20 August	Outdoors Sculpture	
23-27 August	Breakdancing	
Monthly	Coffee & Computers (free monthly drop-in session for older people)	Virtual Events
	Wellness Café	

## 8. Activities and Events

- 8.1 Kaleidoscope 2021 festival, developed and delivered by the in house team, was successfully delivered on Saturday 24 July 2021.
- 8.3 Other events are scheduled to resume in September as listed in Table 2 below.

**Table 2 – Confirmed Large Events**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
7&8 August	StrEATlife	Park & South Terrace
21&22 August	StrEATlife	Park & South Terrace
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 will be consulted on this report and any comments will be reported verbally at the meeting.

## **8. Appendices**

None