

**MINUTES OF THE ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2009**

PRESENT: * denotes attendee

NOMINATED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

*Ms J. Hutchinson : Alexandra Residents' Association
Mr P. Wastell : Alexandra Residents' Association
*Ms. M. Myers : Muswell Hill and Fortis Green
Association
*Ms J. Baker : Palace Gates Residents' Association
Vacancy : Palace View Residents' Association
Ms S. Rees (deputy) : Palace View Residents' Association
*Mr. D. Frith : The Rookfield Association
Mr. F. Hilton (deputy) : The Rookfield Association
*Mr. D. Liebeck : Warner Estate Residents' Association
*Mr H. Aspden : Warner Estate Residents' Association

APPOINTED MEMBERS

*Councillor S. Oatway : Alexandra Ward
*Councillor A. Demirci : Bounds Green Ward
Councillor S. Beynon : Fortis Green Ward
Councillor M. Whyte : Hornsey Ward

Councillor S. Rainger : Muswell Hill Ward
*Councillor C. Harris : Noel Park Ward
*Councillor M. Newton : Council Wide appointment
Councillor J. Patel : Council Wide appointment

Also in attendance:

Councillor Pat Egan – Chair of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board

Mr David Loudfoot – General Manager – Alexandra Palace

Ms Rebecca Kane – Managing Director – Alexandra Palace Trading Limited

Mr Paul Braybrook-Head of Sales and Communications Alexandra Palace Trading Ltd

Mr Mark Evison – Park Manager – Alexandra Palace

Mr Clifford Hart – Clerk to the Committee – Cttee Manager

**MINUTE
NO.**

SUBJECT/DECISION

APSC21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Demirci and Patel, due to their attendance at a rescheduled LB Haringey Planning Committee (rescheduled from 2 February 2009 due to inclement weather), from Councillor Whyte due to attendance at a meeting of Homes for Haringey, and also from Councillor Beynon due to illness.

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NOTED

At this point in the proceedings, prior to the consideration of minutes, the Chair welcomed Councillor Pat Egan – Chair of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board - to the meeting and invited Councillor Egan to give an oversight as to the current position regarding the Palace and Park.

Councillor Egan thanked the Chair and advised that following Councillor Cooke's relinquishing the role of Chair of the Board – having been appointed as Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement, he had been appointed as Chair, with Councillor Dogus taking the position of Vice-Chair.

Since then, Councillor Egan advised that he had commenced holding a series of individual meetings with members of the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee to obtain their views as to the future of the Palace. These had been very successful and informative. It was now intended to expand these individual meetings to the Advisory Committee representatives and attendees.

Councillor Egan, in commenting on the chequered history of the Palace, stated that the process of talking with individuals was part of a "stock-taking" exercise, as to where things were, and how people saw the future direction of the Palace. As previously stated by Councillor Cooke, Councillor Egan advised that no future proposal or idea was being ruled in or out, and that he had a blank canvas, and it was hoped that a shared vision/concept would emerge.

Councillor Egan also advised that, in terms of the Advisory Committee's involvement in the "away day", there had been one away day thus far where only Trustees had been in attendance. This had been a positive exercise. Councillor Egan commented that he had always adored the Park, which for him was of as much importance as the Palace, and that any future palace development must ensure that the Park was kept to at least the current level of maintenance and upkeep. Councillor Egan commented that thus far, as Chair, the process had been a steep learning curve for him, and that in speaking to individual representatives considerable passion had radiated from such discussions, for the Palace and the Park.

The Chair, in thanking Councillor Egan for his brief address, asked if there were any particular questions from the Advisory Committee, and he himself sought clarification as to whether there was a time-line in terms of deliberations and an emerging vision. In response, Councillor Egan advised that there were no timelines and that at the current time the focus was on discussions in relation to how and what people felt about the future of the Palace and Park.

The Chair commented that there was to a certain degree a sense of urgency in terms of the fabric of the building and that there was a keenness to see those parts of the building currently not in use brought into use, and those parts currently in use being put to better use.

Ms Hutchinson commented that she welcomed the opportunity to take part in individual discussions, and also, if offered, the opportunity to attend and participate in a workshop/away day event. The Chair, in sharing these sentiments,

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	<p>commented that it would also be a positive step forward to meet as one body – being the Board, the Consultative Committee and this body, to exchange views, possibly having a brainstorming session, in late Spring, as well as these individual discussions with representatives.</p> <p>In response to clarification as to what would then happen (following these individual discussions) the General Manager – Mr Loudfoot - advised that any outline strategy of the proposed way forward would be discussed by the Board, and indeed by this body.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Councillor Egan for his brief update to the Committee, and advised Councillor Egan that he was more than welcome to remain and observe the rest of the proceedings.</p> <p>NOTED</p> <p>The Chair advised the Committee that the Managing Director of Alexandra Palace Trading Limited (APTL) – Ms Rebecca Kane - was in attendance at the meeting, and in welcoming Ms Kane, thought that the Committee would appreciate a few comments from her in terms of APTL, as well as giving details of her background / experience.</p> <p>Ms Kane thanked the Chair for the opportunity of addressing the Committee, and she advised that she had been in post now for 2 months, gave a brief outline of her career to date, having been at English Heritage for 10 years and for the last 5 years as their director for London. Ms Kane outlined the eclectic mix of responsibilities as director for London including the management of Eltham Palace, and Darwin House.</p> <p>Ms Kane commented that she was getting to know the Palace and its various aspects and history, which in her view were fascinating, together with the business side of APTL which was also her responsibility. Ms Kane thanked the Committee for the opportunity to attend and meet with them, and explained that the 'forthcoming events' report would in future be prepared by herself in conjunction with her Head of Sales, Paul Braybrook, who was also present.</p> <p>Mr Braybrook then gave a brief outline of his role as manager of events at the Palace and also his background in media/broadcasting.</p> <p>The Chair thanked both Ms Kane and Mr Braybrook.</p>
<p>APSC22.</p>	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
<p>APSC23.</p>	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>i. Minutes of the meeting of the Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee - 7 October 2008</p>

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RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee held on 7 October 2008 be agreed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

- ii. Draft minutes of the meeting of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board held on 21 October 2008 and the responses of the Board to recommendations of the Advisory Committee

The Clerk to the Committee - Mr Hart – advised the Committee that a revised set of draft minutes had been TABLED following some minor amendments submitted by Mr Aspden.

The Chair asked if there were comments on the draft minutes and whether Mr Aspden would wish to comment upon his attendance at the Board meeting on 21 October 2008.

Mr Aspden commented on the contents of the circulated minutes which reflected the discussions of the Board meeting of 21 October 2008. The minutes recorded the exchange of views at that meeting between Members of the Board, the Council's legal representative and himself. Mr Aspden advised that in his view he had not done such a good job to get across the views of the Advisory Committee, and he offered his apologies to the Committee Mr Aspden in particular referred to the discussion at page 13 of the circulated minutes regarding Resolutions (a) i-iii of the Committee's 7th October 2008 meeting. It was his view that the first two responses did not address the points raised by the Committee regarding the future of the asset and the Firoka Licence arrangements, the findings of the Walklate report in relation to that agreement, and the levels of communication between the Advisory Committee and the Board.

The Chair responded that hopefully lessons had been learned in relation to the findings of the Walklate report, and that a further report was expected. The Chair commented that there needed to be further recognition by the Board of the need to consult on such issues in the future. He asked whether Councillor Egan wished to comment further.

Councillor Egan advised that the further report was yet to be completed and that this would cover a whole range of other issues arising from the findings of the Walklate report. Also, the Board would be considering an update at its next meeting in respect of governance – which had been highlighted in the Walklate report. In terms of governance the Board would also in the next few months be looking at its relationship with the Advisory and Consultative Committees in terms of creating an open dialogue.

Mr Loudfoot also commented that the Report to the Board meeting did not go to any great depth in terms of the Board's relationship with

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both the Advisory and Consultative Committees, as it was a code of governance for the trustees. However, given that the issues referred to were 'live', these would be flagged.

Mr Aspden felt that it would be appropriate to consider the process of consultation and, whilst he welcomed the idea of 1:1 meetings on an informal basis, in his view there needed to be some more open and informative dialogue between the Board and its Consultative and Advisory Committees.

In response to points of clarification from Ms Myers the Chair advised that the Board had delegated powers from the Local Authority and that in accordance with the 1985 Act had to act in an independent capacity and that this was sometimes where the conflict had arisen for Councillors.

The Chair felt that the suggestion from Mr Aspden regarding a three-party dialogue was one that should be progressed. To this end, the Chair felt that it would be appropriate to suggest the idea of up to two semi formal meetings between the Board and its Consultative Committee and this Committee.

Following further discussion the Committee felt that, whilst welcoming the views of the Chair of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board as expressed at the commencement of the meeting in respect of talking individually with Members of the Statutory Advisory Committee and also the Consultative Committee, the Board be asked to consider holding up to 2 joint meetings a year with both the Advisory Committee and Consultative Committee to talk about common issues and concerns in relation to the Park and Palace, in either an informal or semi-formal basis.

In response to points of clarification from Councillor Oatway regarding input to the Governance report, the Chair felt that it would be appropriate for him to raise comments when the item was considered at the forthcoming Board meeting.

Mr Aspden then referred to the comments expressed during the Board meeting of 21 October by the General Manager in respect of the Advisory Committee (page 20) and his expressed view of the Advisory Committee 'land grabbing', which in his view showed the Committee in a bad light and was rather insulting. Mr Aspden commented that he had asked at that meeting whether Mr Loudfoot would wish to withdraw the comment, which had been declined, and he asked again whether Mr Loudfoot would wish to withdraw this comment.

In response, Mr Loudfoot advised that he would not be withdrawing his remark and that indeed would explain the context of the remark. In stating that he had not in any way intended to be insulting, the comment had been in the context of a particular issue (sub-leases being granted to the Cricket Club). Mr Loudfoot repeated his

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comment (expressed at the Board meeting) that such issues were not within the remit of the Advisory Committee and that the Advisory Committee could not (in a sense) regulate what it thought should be brought to its attention. Mr Loudfoot referred to the fact the Committee had moved on from a body that in the past had been ineffective (due to the fact that the meetings had been inquorate, and therefore unable to express a constructive response) to a position where, in his opinion, it was now attempting to exceed the ambit of its remit and advisory capacity. This was not in accordance with the 1985 Act. Mr Loudfoot concluded that he was terribly sorry if Members had taken offence at his comment. It was not meant to insult anyone, and he offered an unreserved apology. However, he would not be withdrawing the remarks as recorded.

Ms Hutchinson responded to some of the points raised by Mr Loudfoot by commenting that the reason why so many meetings had been inquorate was because appointed (majority) Councillors to this Committee had shown little or no interest in its ambit, and had therefore not attended, or only sparsely. It was the case that meetings were now quorate largely because of the attendance of the appointed Liberal Democrat Councillors. Whilst she accepted that the Board did not have to act on the resolutions passed by this Committee it was unacceptable that the Board took little or no account of matters the Advisory Committee brought to its attention and it was a fact that this Committee was unable to challenge those actions. In terms of the issue of the Cricket club and sub lease/usage – this was very much tied in to the new Heartlands School, and the fact that this school would not have any of its own recreational facilities and therefore there was a need to look elsewhere – the Cricket Club and Park being possibilities – and that this sort of matter did need to be brought to the Committee for consideration.

Councillor C Harris declared an interest as Governor of the new Heartlands School.

In response to the points expressed by Ms Hutchinson Mr Loudfoot advised that the issue of the terms of the Cricket Club sub leases went well beyond the remit of the Advisory Committee. It was the case that the Board did give consideration to the recommendations of this Committee but it was unable to enter into discussion or allow the disclosure of legal agreements and commercially sensitive information relating to third parties and that this was in effect what the Advisory committee had been asking to have sight of. Whilst it was and had been the case that the Board had allowed discussions in respect of the Firoka development etc, no commercially sensitive or legal matters had been disclosed. The Board would welcome suggestions from this committee, asking it to limit the amount of use in sub letting the cricket grounds, but there was no obligation for the Advisory Committee to be shown the details of any actual subleasing arrangements/legal agreements. Mr Loudfoot added that because of such requests, in his view he was under the impression that in terms

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of the requests to the Board of 21 October 2008, this Committee was acting outside the ambit of the 1985 Act.

Mr Aspden commented that the perception of Mr Loudfoot that the Advisory Committee was acting outside, or attempting to extend its remit outside the Act was outrageous. Whilst it was true that the Committee had expressed an interest in the terms of the lease, including adding the right to sub-lease, it had specifically excluded the rent. He expressed his concern that if Mr. Loudfoot held such negative views towards the Committee this might prejudice his ability to work effectively with it in future.

Mr Loudfoot responded by assuring the Committee that he would have no such difficulty and that, whilst reiterating his earlier apology in terms of not having intended any offence, he remained of the view that the Committee were 'pushing on the envelope' and he would not be withdrawing any of comments expressed either on 21 October 2008 or this evening.

Councillor C Harris commented that whilst she was unable to give a view as what had gone on in the previous administration, from the views of the new Chair of the Board (until December 2008) expressed at this Committee in October 2008 as to the future of asset, it was clear to her that there was a recognised need on the part of the Board for openness and dialogue, which had also been confirmed by Councillor Egan at the beginning of this meeting. Councillor Harris felt it was appropriate to move on from this discussion, noting the concerns expressed but looking to make a constructive response that the Board would be able to consider.

In sharing Councillor Harris's comment Councillor Oatway felt that the Committee was able to move forward now that it had some clarification in terms of the future dialogue with the Board.

The Committee then clarified its response, and the Chair concluded and it was:

RESOLVED

- i. That the minutes of the meetings of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board of 21 October 2008 be noted;
- ii. That the Advisory Committee, in welcoming the views of the Chair of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board as expressed at the commencement of the meeting, in respect of talking individually with Members of the Statutory Advisory Committee, and also the Consultative Committee, resolves that the Board be asked to consider holding up to 2 joint meetings a year with both the Advisory Committee and Consultative Committee, to discuss common issues and concerns in relation to the Park and Palace, on either an informal or semi-formal basis;

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	<p>iii. That the Advisory Committee resolves that, in terms of any future proposals for recreation or leisure activity / uses of the Park (and specifically in relation to the new Heartlands School), the Board seek the views and advice of the Advisory Committee; and</p> <p>iv. That in respect of (iii) above the Board be referred to the Advisory Committee's remit, namely to assist and advise the Board to achieve its objectives within the Alexandra Palace and Park Act 1985, and it is not the intention of the Advisory Committee to hinder the Board in its management and operation of the Park and Palace;</p> <p>v. That the minutes of the meetings of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board of 5 November 2008, and 6 January 2009 be noted; and</p> <p>vi. That the minutes of the meetings of the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee of 15 July, 14 October 2008 be noted.</p>
APSC24.	<p>PARK ACTIVITIES UPDATE</p> <p>The Chair asked for a brief introduction of the report.</p> <p>In a succinct introduction to the circulated report Mr Evison gave a brief update of recent activities carried out in Alexandra Park and answered points of clarification.</p> <p>The Committee then discussed the following matters;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety & security in and around the Park entrances particularly the Grove and at Muswell Hill;• The possibility of a joint venture to fund a new bridge and entrance area at Muswell Hill to replace the existing featureless and unsightly entrance;• Better entrance signage, particularly at Muswell Hill and confirmation that a TLF/Council scheme would install signage as part of the Parkland walk and entrance; <p>(Councillor Demirci arrived at 20.55hrs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The difficulties with the Thames Water work at the Bedford road end of the lower road and the resultant difficulties with traffic movement etc and the expected completion of the works;• The proposals by Warner Estate Residents Association for an all-weather path to replace the present informal, and very muddy, desire line from the top of Park Avenue North across the Redston Road playing fields and the old race-course to join the Lower Road at the eastern end of the car park, and the Committee's endorsement of this proposal for recommendation to the Board, noting that the proposal will also be considered by the Consultative Committee on 17 February 2009. <p>Following a summary by the Chair it was:-</p>

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RESOLVED

- i. That the Board be asked to consider exploring a joint funding venture in conjunction with the local Community and external funders in respect of revamping and improving the entrance to the Park at Muswell Hill including a newly designed bridge and path; and
- ii. That the Alexandra Palace and Park Board be asked to note that the Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee endorses the proposal of the Warner Estate Residents Association for an all-weather path to replace the present informal, and very muddy, desire line from the top of Park Avenue North across the Redston Road playing field and the old race-course to join the Lower Road at the eastern end of the car park, and requests that the Board gives consideration to and approves the proposal as outlined.

APSC25. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Chair asked for a brief introduction of the report.

The Managing Director of Alexandra Palace Trading Limited (APTL) – Ms Kane gave a brief and succinct introduction to the report and highlighted the confirmed and provisional bookings at the Palace for the remainder of 2008/09 and also to 2010., and answered a number of points of clarification in respect of the various events as detailed,.

Mr Braybrook assisted Ms Kane in respect of responses.

The Committee then briefly discussed the current economic climate and its effects on the overall confirmed and provisional bookings and the levels of drop out, and Ms Kane responded in terms of the number of bookings that were definite. It was the case that there was a 10-15% reduction in venue bookings but APTL was not only driven by this aspect. It was necessary to look at cost effectiveness and value for money, and also the opportunity of picking up bookings where an event organiser had booked another venue (e.g. EXCEL or NEC), and as a result of reducing cost was now looking at alternative venues. Ms Kane also highlighted to the Committee those events where there was considerable effort on the part of the event organiser in terms of the staging and appearance of the event and the use of materials to improve the overall internal appearance.

In response to clarification from Councillor Oatway in terms of the Darts Championship (and the space allocated for gambling) Ms Kane advised that this area had been clearly marked and separated from the main event, and had the clear appearance of a betting type facility. Mr Braybrook confirmed that in terms of general admission to the show, no child under 11 was permitted to enter the event and any minor between the ages of 11 and 16 had to be accompanied by an adult.

The Chair then summarised and it was:

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	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>
APSC26.	<p>LEGAL ADVICE ON REMIT AND GAMBLING LICENCE</p> <p>The Chair referred to the item for consideration and in respect of the circulated letter from the LB Haringey's Legal Services representative in terms of the occasional use notice the Chair advised that he agreed with the advice/opinion as stated.</p> <p>Mr. Aspden pointed out that not only had this matter unfortunately dragged on for fully a year since it was first raised at the Committee's 5th February 2008 meeting, but that, in the interim, the terms of reference had been incorrectly linked to the occasional use notice rather than to the application for a permanent gambling licence which was the original reason for the matter having been raised.</p> <p>The General Manager – Mr Loudfoot advised that the initial application for a permanent licence was withdrawn, and the licence was then resubmitted for consideration. The terms of the resubmitted application was for a permanent licence but limited only for the Darts Event only. The occasional use licence was used the first year whilst the permanent application was awaiting grant.</p> <p>The Committee then discussed the matter of the advice and the course of action open to it, and a summary of the discussion follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That although the legal opinion as stated was too narrow, the Committee would reserve its right to seek a further (independent) legal opinion ;• That the holding of the actual event was not being criticised but the lack of consultation regarding the event, as well as the implications of the original intended licence, was unsatisfactory;• Principally this was a yet further matter where the Advisory Committee felt that it should have been consulted;• That the Board be requested to note this comment that the Committee considers that it ought to have been consulted on the granting of a gambling licence;• That this issue should be a further matter that the Board needed to consider as part of its governance and consultation arrangements. <p>The Chair then summarised and it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That in noting the written advice of the LB Haringey's Legal adviser that the Board was not obliged to consult the Advisory Committee regarding the granting of the gaming licence, with which it does not concur, the Committee requests the Board to consider, as part of its relationship and arrangements with the Advisory Committee, that in future it be consulted in respect of such applications as a matter of course.</p>

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APSC27.	ITEMS RAISED BY ASSOCIATIONS ITEM RAISED BY WARNER ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Proposal for all-weather path to replace the present informal, and very muddy, desire line from the top of Park Avenue North across the Redston Road playing field and the old race-course to join the Lower Road at the eastern end of the car park Item dealt with under agenda item 4.
APSC28.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS Mr Aspden asked the Clerk to the Committee whether this meeting was to be the last that he would be clerking. Mr Hart advised that he would be overseeing the next meeting of the Advisory Committee, but that a newly appointed officer within his team would be taking on this role, from the summer of 2009. Mr Hart also advised that as he was taking on other duties it was not possible for him to continue clerking this body. Mr Aspden placed on record his thanks to Mr Hart for his efforts and support to this Committee during the past 5 years. Councillor Oatway echoed this sentiment on behalf of the Committee as a whole. NOTED

The meeting ended at 22.00hrs

David Liebeck

Chair