



ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST
BOARD MEETING
11 OCTOBER 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. Recommendations

1.1 To note the content of this report;

2. Pandemic Update

2.1 The East Court reopened to the public mid-September and will be open seven days a week, 9am-5pm. There is currently no food or beverage offer in this space other than when theatre events are scheduled. Future provision is being planned.

2.2 The Phoenix Bar & Kitchen was refurbished and reopened in time for the first big large music concert on 23 September. The Terrace bar closed on 12 September.

2.3 The Covid testing centre in The Paddocks has now closed and the area is now open to the public and available for event car parking. The weekly Farmers Market and Parkrun have returned.

2.4 The Phoenix Bar & Kitchen reopened on 23 September with a new back bar, décor and pizza oven, serving 190 pizzas on the first night.

2.5 An application is underway for round 3 of the Culture Recovery Fund. Conversations are also underway with the Corporate Trustee in relation to our future funding requirements to ensure that we have the financial resources to recover from the pandemic and maintain sufficient resources to deliver our obligations to care for the Park and Palace and keep them safely open to the public to enjoy.

2.6 The Trust has now moved into the next phase of our return to work, with more employees on site more frequently. Covid safe measures continue to be regularly reviewed for staff and the public.

3. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan

- 3.1 A summary of the Trust's EDI Action Plan is now published on the website <https://assets.alexandrapalace.com/content/uploads/2021/09/Summary-Equality-Diversity-and-Inclusion-Policy.pdf>

4. Repairs, maintenance and improvements

4.1 Lighting

- 4.1.1 We continue to regularly assess the lighting across the site and have been working through the backlog of faulty lights in the parkland. The issues are arising because of the age of the underlying infrastructure, which needs to be addressed. Surveys have taken place for like for like replacement in recurring problem areas but the funding is not available to implement this.
- 4.1.2 In the meantime we have been working on a solar lighting pilot in the Dukes Avenue area to address the issue in this location on a temporary basis whilst testing a modern and more energy efficient solution for the wider park.
- 4.1.3 A fuller report on our strategic approach to lighting the park will be presented to a future board meeting.

4.2 South Slope Path Repair

- 4.2.1 The Trust is currently undertaking repairs to the path on the South slope. It is expected to be completed by the end of October, in advance of the Fireworks Festival build.
- 4.2.2 The West Hall rewire and lighting project is complete (see images at Appendix 1). The discharge lighting has been replaced with LEDs to reduce our energy consumption and electricity costs, making us a more environmentally friendly and cost-effective.. The project has been delivered thanks to additional grant funding from Haringey Council from its own resources and via an interest free loan from Salix, with the capital costs repaid through savings in our utility bills in the coming years.

- 4.3 Decisions on the external signage, composting toilet, and outdoor beer garden (advertising, planning and listed building) applications brought to the SAC/CC in March have been deferred until 7 October. Due to annual leave on both sides (the Charity and the Council's planners) further conversations around the proposed festoon lightings and a site visit had not been able to take place until September. If a decision is communicated to the Trust ahead of the Board meeting a verbal update will be provided.

- 4.4 Fire Alarm upgrades to West Hall have been installed and rewiring/new devices to associated spaces including Palm Court, and progress on Great Hall systems are being installed with rewiring/new devices to follow to associated spaces. Old systems will remain live until the planned change over to the new enhanced installations.

4.5 Other maintenance and repairs:

- Transmitter Hall external access ramp substantially renewed
- Roof leak repairs: NW Hall/BBC Tower/Panorama Room lobby/Palm Court entrance, including replacing broken arctic glass to curved window
- East Court domes and atriums – Glazing repairs & part resealing vents
- Palm Court domes and atriums – Glazing repairs & part resealing vents
- Event Control Room spaces - Large and Small refurbished
- Rewiring to Great Hall serveries
- Redecoration of degraded front and back of house areas
- Great Hall roof – Glazing service (2 bays out of 30no.)
- SE Office Building Staircase – Scaffold access and investigations to defective beam
- Preventative masonry repairs to Palm Court Entrance/Great Hall North elevations
- CCTV Future Proofing Upgrade works. New decoders installed, coupled with the latest touch screen controllers
- GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) units installed in Passenger NW lift, Good NW lift, Area 7 lift and Marble Area 1 lift
- PAVA fault investigation and rectification of Security Rack Controller fault
- Replacement of Damaged Lamp post number 209.
- Repair to Great Hall overhead door following insurance inspection.

4.6 At the last meeting we incorrectly reported that we had completed work on the Great Hall Bridge (renewed asphalt to steps/bridge landing, structural repairs to bridge arches, cast iron columns and beams). Work was not actually conducted but structural advice was obtained.

5. Creative Learning

5.1 Four week-long Summer Creativity Camps were held through the school holidays, with each week ending in a performance. This year's themes were: Theatre, Junkyard Orchestra, Outdoor sculptures and Breakdancing.

5.2 Artist Alix Smith has created a piece of art that is now displayed in a tree near the rose garden to launch the new 'Stories by Moonlight' project. The aim of the project is to inspire families to read bedtime stories together outside in nature and this is a soft launch through the autumn and will be rolled out in full next year.

5.3 A new partnership with Haringey's Global Cinema Club has been formed and is a volunteer led community cinema club that celebrates Haringey's cultural diversity. Their aim is to showcase some of the best non-English language films from around the world. The first film shown at Ally Pally was the Oscar nominated film Mustang on 16 September, which was attended by 47 members of the Turkish community.

5.4 In September the team also delivered a Park tour to a group of 15 people from an NHS Arts and Wellbeing group under the Social Prescribing scheme.

5.5 The Creative Learning Wellness Centre has reopened and is hosting a variety of events and activities.

5.6 Haringey Music Service returned this month, with a session on Diversity, Representation and Inclusion in Music Education.

- 5.7 More than 60 people attended the first 3 sessions Five Bells Computer Club, which will be running from the space every Tuesday. The initiative provides opportunities for older people and others to learn about accessing technology. Meanwhile, Singing for the Brain, a partnership between the Palace and the Alzheimer's Society, which runs a choir for people with memory issues, returns on 30 September.
- 5.8 Weekly workshops for young carers return to the Creativity Pavilion on Thursdays. The sessions are run in partnership between the Palace's Creative Learning team and Haringey's Early Help and Prevention team to provide a supportive and creative respite space for young carers from across the borough.
- 5.9 Culture Bubble webinar series has continued to provide opportunities for young people to debate key cultural issues and learn about careers in the creative sector. August's seminar was led by a panel of female backstage professionals. September's webinar will be an opportunity to hear from established artists working in Public Art.
- 5.10 120 Haringey school children participated in big tree climbing opera event, provided by The Great Big Tree Climbing Company, alongside expert singing leadership to explore simple folk songs of the forest as they climb.
- 5.11 Para Dance UK & Alexandra Palace partnered for the third year running for Youth Games Dance Competition 2021. Our theme this year is "Big Live Moments" celebrating the return of live performances and drawing from artists stand out live performances over time. 13 SEND schools have signed up with 257 learners with disabilities taking part in this year's event. Over the summer months we have been busy putting together lots of fun routines and creative content to get you all competition ready which launched in September.
- 5.12 A new group of Creative Learning Team volunteers have started monthly sessions in the Park, they are currently working on tidying up the Rose Garden.
- 5.13 In partnership with Haringey Council, the Ice Rink has seen a big take up of the subsidised ticket offer from the following groups:
- Early help Family Support workers – Work with vulnerable families
 - Adfam Family Support Co-ordinator – Families affected by a loved ones alcohol use
 - Haringey Gold – Community Safety youth intervention programme
 - Broadwater Farm Community Centre via Clasford Stirling MBE – part of youth intervention work for local young people
 - HR Sports Academy/Holiday Activity and Food Programme – Holiday initiative predominantly focusing on Family/young people on Free School Meals
 - Project 2020 – Homes for Haringey Youth centre based in Northumberland Park
 - Bruce Grove Youth Space – Haringey Council run Youth Centre in Bruce Grove
- 5.14 There have been 6 community group rehearsals in the Creativity Pavilion and Transmitter Hall.

5.15 Learning and participation events since the last meeting and upcoming (up to December):

13 September	Stories and Moonlight installation-Park (near Rose Garden)
Tuesdays weekly	Five Bells Computer Club-Creativity Pavilion
16 September	Haringey Global Cinema Club-Creativity Pavilion
Friday's weekly	Giant Tree climbing Song Sessions-Park
Thursdays (weekly)	Haringey Young Carers Event-Creativity Pavilion
Thursdays (weekly)	Singing for the Brain-Transmitter Hall
27, 29, September	First Step Classes-Transmitter Hall
29 September	Culture Bubble presents Artists Talk-Online

5.16 Thank you to the Friends of the Park and our volunteers who conducted visitor surveys in the Park in August. The results will play a part in helping us to prioritise future projects and improvements as well as giving an overall insight into visitor satisfaction, perceptions and user demographics.

6. Activities and Events

6.1 The Outdoor Events programme is included in the events schedule attached at Appendix 2. Currently scheduled are 3 events at 75db, 1 event at 70db and 1 event at 65db, which fall within the permitted events within the variations in the outdoor events licence.

6.2 The SAC/CC are asked to note the dates for Primal Scream (16 July 2022), Fat Freddy's Drop (22 July 2022) and Kaleidoscope Festival on Saturday (23 July 2022) over an 11 day period. There are also discussions for possible events on Sunday 17 July and Sunday 24 July 2022. Rather than spread these events out over many weekends across the summer, it was felt that holding these events over a 2 week consecutive period would minimise any impact on the park, park users and our neighbours.

6.3 A road closure would be required for 8 days (6 full days) over that 11 day period to allow the events to take place. A day-by-day breakdown is shown below. The south slope area itself would be unavailable throughout this period with it fully lifted on Wednesday 27 July 2022.

6.4 July 2022 Park events impact:

Thursday 14 July, build up on South Slope, road closed from midday, noise level not applicable.

Friday 15 July, build up on South Slope, road closed all day, noise level not applicable.

Saturday 16 July, Primal Scream Concert on South Slope, road closed all day, sound level 70 decibel.

Sunday 17 July, Event on South Slope to be confirmed, road closed all day, sound level 65 decibel.

Monday 18 July, Breakdown on South Slope, road opened at mid-day, noise level not applicable.

Thursday 21 July, build up on South Slope, road closed from midday, noise level not applicable.

Friday 22 July, Fat Freddy's Drop Concert on South Slope, road closed all day, sound level 75 decibel

Saturday 23 July, Kaleidoscope Festival on South Slope, South Terrace and in West Hall, road closed all day, sound level 75 decibel.

Sunday 24 July, Event on South Slope to be confirmed, road closed all day, sound level 75 decibel.

Monday 25 July, Break down on South Slope, road opened at mid-day, noise level not applicable.

6.5 Table of noise complaints calendar year to date:

Month-Event-No. of complaints

25 July 2021 -Kaleidoscope-no complaints

7 August 2021 -Streatlife-1 complaint

22 August 2021 -Streatlife-2 complaints

Total number of noise complaints received (2020/21 1st Apr-31st March) -3

7. Legal Implications

7.1 The Council's Head of Legal & Governance is being consulted in the preparation of this report, and any comments will be reported at the meeting.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The Council's Chief Financial Officer is being consulted in the preparation of this report, and any comments will be reported at the meeting.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – West Hall lighting images

Appendix 2 – Schedule of events

Appendix 1 – text description: Images of the West Hall lighting colours and sequences