



**ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**13 December 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. Recommendations**

1.1 To note the content of this report.

**2. General Update**

2.1 The East Court reopened to the public in the middle of 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 Governance Improvement Programme has resumed and, following points raised by members of the committees and discussions at recent Joint SAC/CC meetings, a proposal for improving the Trust's stakeholder engagement is included on this agenda for discussion

2.3 A summary of the Trust's Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan is now published on the website

<https://assets.alexandrapalace.com/content/uploads/2021/09/Summary-Equality-Diversity-and-Inclusion-Policy.pdf>

2.4 The Car Park Charging project is on track, with a final proposal for the award of contract being presented to the Trustee Board in January 2022.

2.5 Planning, Listed Building and Advertising consent has been granted in principle for the external signage upgrades, improvements to the outdoor beer garden and composting toilet installation. The Trust was unable to gain support from the Conservation Officer to install 7 eyelets in the Palace's external wall, therefore, the proposed festoon lighting in the outdoor beer garden was removed from the original application.

- 2.6 At the 2021 London Venue Awards Alexandra Palace won the award for *Best Community Support During Covid* and also the *Bronze Award for Best Covid Response*. Comments left by the judges' from our winning entry were:

"This vast space has certainly come into its own during the pandemic. Hats off to the team and army of volunteers for their contribution

Going to extraordinary lengths to maximise every space for the benefit of the community – from Covid testing and food distribution to offering a peaceful open-air space for everyday visitors. "

- 2.7 As with previous years Alexandra Palace Way will be closed to traffic (with the exception of the W3 bus and emergency vehicles) on New Year's Eve. Times are still to be confirmed but it will likely be from 21:00-02:00hrs.

### 3. Park Update

- 3.1 The Park has maintained its Green Flag status, for a fourteenth straight year. We also received the Green Heritage Site Accreditation, which recognises high standards in the management of sites with local or national heritage importance and three Gold awards at the annual London in Bloom awards. Read our blog at this website link: [https://www.alexandrapalace.com/blog/alexandra-park-recognised-with-awards/?dm\\_t=0,0,0,0,0](https://www.alexandrapalace.com/blog/alexandra-park-recognised-with-awards/?dm_t=0,0,0,0,0)
- 3.2 A new Community Payback scheme has started in the Park. A small group are working on site once a week for a trial until the new year. They have been weeding and tidying shrub beds near the lake. This is in addition to the Tree Conservation Volunteers (TCV) corporate volunteering scheme which has seen groups undertaking the hard work to de-compact the soil beneath our valuable oak trees to improve aeration and water infiltration.
- 3.3 The Earthshot team donated a large number of trees and shrubs following the event last month. The trees have been planted by the John O'Conner Park team and a corporate group with the TCV. Some of the shrubs were planted by the Community Payback team.
- 3.4 Visitor numbers are still above average, although not at the extreme highs of the early pandemic. Across June, Jul and August, the numbers were up 20% compared to the average, September was a whopping 58% higher than average (probably because of the unusually warm and dry weather). The Park team continue to maintain the site, they have collected over 100 tonnes of rubbish from site since 1st April. The hay meadow cutting took place after it was cancelled last year due to budget cuts. The removal of the arisings helps to reduce the fertility of the soil and allow a greater diversity of species to flourish. John O'Conner have taken on three kick-starter placements who are making a great addition to the team.
- 3.5 The annual tree safety survey has been completed, although the report is behind schedule. In the meantime various ad hoc works are scheduled to remove broken branches and dead trees. Boundary tree works have also been agreed with a number of Park neighbours (at their cost) according to the new boundary tree policy. The lockdown and working from home seems to have given rise to an increase in enquiries and the policy is in place to protect the valuable trees whilst taking account of neighbour's common law rights and to permit removal of less valuable trees at their cost. An application was made to the GLA's grow back greener fund to implement

some of the actions set out in the tree and woodland management plan and the result of the application should be known soon.

- 3.6 The Friends of the Park continue to provide activities and other support for the Park. Recent work parties have been cutting the acid grass in the butterfly meadow by hand to avoid damaging the ant hills. The Friend's wildlife group have recorded two new butterfly species for the site, long-tailed blue and green hairstreak were seen earlier in the year.
- 3.7 A new management approach for Oak Processionary Moth this year in conjunction with the Forestry Commission. The site was divided into zones based on usage and dwell time and the high priority areas were pre-emptively sprayed in Spring to prevent the larvae developing into the large, hairy caterpillars with silken nests that can cause skin irritation. This was successful, and avoided a programme of nest removal later in the year which puts the operatives at risk.
- 3.8 The Park team were asked to stop using weedkiller around the site in the Summer. This year has been an experimental phase to see how the weeds respond, the weeds can also be re-classified a 'pavement plants' and tolerated a little more to support invertebrates. The team have spent some time strimming or manually pulling the weeds, but they don't have the equivalent time available to make up for losing weedkiller as a "tool". Feedback from committee members on whether they've noticed the change in policy is welcome and whether there is an appetite to help support this scheme by forming a volunteer group to tackle the issues.

#### **4. Repairs, maintenance and improvements**

- 4.1 As part of the Salix Lighting Project (completed in the West Hall in September) works to install LED light fittings have been largely completed in event back of house areas including the lights in the BBC Tower and BBC Corridors.
- 4.2 Further improvements in energy efficiency and sustainability are planned with LED lighting upgrades in the Ice Rink and in the Ice Café commencing in January. To enable the works to take place, however, we will need to close the Ice Rink and have informed our regular users.
  - 4.2.1 The Ice Rink closure will take place on week days only, between 10 January 2022 – 4 February 2022. Weekends will continue to operate as normal. Dates the rink is closed:
    - 10-14 January
    - 17-21 January
    - 24-28 January
    - 31 January - 4 February
  - 4.2.2 The Ice Café requires significant work on the electrical infrastructure and will remain closed until the middle of March 2022.
- 4.3 Repairs to the Reconstruction of 70m of the South Slope Path was undertaken in October. This project extends the area of the path with sufficient foundations to withstand the heavy vehicles associated with outdoor events. A further section of the path is scheduled to be reconstructed next financial year.
- 4.4 The Historic Environment Forum, supported by the Heritage Alliance (of which the Trust is a member), launched the #HeritageResponds report, which features the Trust's partnership project with Haringey Council and Salix to replace the West Hall

lighting with more cost effective and energy efficient LEDs. View the report at this link: <https://historicenvironmentforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HEF-Climate-Change-doc-final.pdf>

#### 4.5 Other maintenance and repairs:

- Refurbishment of 2no. glazed roof lanterns over Palm Court Suites
- Plaster consolidation to Theatre auditorium ceiling and walls including spider machine access
- H&S repairs to Alexandra Way pavement prior to Fireworks festival
- Additional roof leak repairs to various areas – Ongoing
- Remedial works to Theatre Stage roof gutters to improve falls to outlets
- West Yard Vehicle Gate repairs. Right hand side solenoid valves and safe edge replaced to allow the gate to operate correctly.
- Annual service and safety inspection of retractable seating in the Theatre ( 3 days)
- PAVA minor service
- Fire alarm maintenance in the Ice Rink, Palm Court, Theatre, Pitch & Putt and Lakeside Café/ Boat House.
- Routine flushing of the Grove foul drains

4.6 On 14 November the London Fire Brigade attended the site due to a fire alarm activation in the boiler room. The rubber seal on boiler expansion joint had corroded resulting in a leak of water and steam, setting off the fire alarm. All necessary fire procedure actions were followed, including the immediate isolation of power to the boiler pump, and our expert facilities team were able to repaired the issue with minimal impact on operations.

### 5. Creative Learning

- 5.1 In October J.K Rowling chose the Theatre to launch her new children's book, The Christmas Pig. Over 100 pupils from four Haringey schools had front row seats to the event and had the chance to meet the author afterwards. Those attending were participants in Biblio-Buzz, the annual literary initiative run by the Palace's Creative Learning team in partnership with local libraries, schools, authors and bookshops.
- 5.2 The Creative Learning team, working with partners with connections to London based charities, arranged for four local asylum seekers and refugees to attend the Yung Blut concert for free on 1 October. The aim was to provide young people engaged with our activities with new opportunities to take part in arts and cultural experiences, provided at the Palace, that might otherwise be unavailable to them.
- 5.3 Working with Coombs Croft Library and Parliament's learning team, we delivered a Campaign For Change workshop for young people to learn more about how Parliament operates and how to work with their local community to campaign on issues that are important to them.
- 5.4 The Creativity Pavilion hosted two nights dedicated to the fringe show TUNA by Airlock Theatre on 21 & 22 October. All proceeds went towards supporting the Young People's programme.
- 5.5 Our first outdoor learning sessions for the new school year began on 7 October with two learning sessions.

- 5.6 Our monthly volunteer-led gardening group is growing and the group have been busy clearing the weeds and rubbish from a number of flower beds in the park.
- 5.7 The GIANT tree climbing and singing sessions ended in October and the feedback has been positive, the children who took part found the sessions very rewarding. We look forward to welcoming GIANT back next year to engage with more schools as we look to expand the programme to SEND (Special educational needs and disabilities) schools.
- 5.8 This month we launched a new workshop series, in partnership with Alexandra Palace's Young Creative Network and Haringey Library Services, called Flavour EXCHANGE that aims to give young people (aged 16-24) a platform to develop their climate literacy and debate the climate crisis and related issues. The sessions are being run by creative consultant and performance poet Kieron Rennie and refugee theatre-maker Ali Ghaderi.
- 5.9 3 community groups have used the Creativity Pavilion or Transmitter Hall for rehearsals/ coaching.
- 5.10 List of learning and participation events since the last meeting and upcoming:

20 & 21 October	Forest School
Every Tuesday	Five Bells Computer Club
Every other Tuesday	Community Group rehearsals in Transmitter Hall
Every Thursday	Haringey Young Carers and Singing for the Brain
Every Saturday	Coaching sessions in Creativity Pavilion
Sundays in November	Rangers Skill Sharing (Park & Transmitter Hall)
3 November	Campaign For Change workshop
10 & 11 November	Forest School
10, 17, 24 & 27 November	Flavour EXCHANGE workshops
15 & 25 November	Heritage Tours
15 Nov & 17 Nov	Rehearsals in the Creativity Pavilion
7 January	Creativity Pavilion in use for teacher training

## 6. Activities and Events

- 6.1 On 17 October, the Palace hosted The Royal Foundation (of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge) Earthshot Prize, organised by and broadcast live on BBC1. The prize celebrates environmental heroes from around the world and featured performances from Coldplay (powered by 60 cyclists in the park), Ed Sheeran, KSI and Yemi Alade. Mo Salah, David Attenborough and Emily Watson were among those presenting awards.
- 6.2 Also in October, to celebrate the return of live music to the Palace, we created a photo essay series examining the roles played by some of the 400+ professionals it takes to run a live music night here, as well as the importance that a busy Palace has to supporting jobs and the local economy. Read the blog at the following link: [https://www.alexandrapalace.com/blog/live-music-returns-to-the-palace-2/?dm\\_t=0,0,0,0,0](https://www.alexandrapalace.com/blog/live-music-returns-to-the-palace-2/?dm_t=0,0,0,0,0)
- 6.3 With November packed full of more live gigs, we've been reminding people of the story of music at Alexandra Palace, and the role the venue has played in some of the seminal moments of modern music history. Watch our Music Heritage Video at the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tchUCp09uGk>

- 6.4 Our Visitor Services Team was shortlisted for the Disability Smart Award for Customer Service. Although we did not win the award, it was a huge achievement to be shortlisted out of 150 nominees.
- 6.5 The Fireworks Festival was held on Saturday, 6 November attended by 40,000 people. One noise complaint was received about amplified music levels and we received some customer feedback in relation to Wi-fi outages and congestion in the family area. The post event clear-up was completed within the 72-hour target although two large items are awaiting removal (a portable toilet and a blue pallet at Gate 1).
- 6.6 The 2021 Red Bull event will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July with build-up starting on Thursday 30 June. More details on the arrangements will be provided in due course.
- 6.7 5 complaints about event noise have been received in the current year to date:

25 July 2021	Kaleidoscope	no complaints
7 August 2021	Streatlife	1 complaint
22 August 2021	Streatlife	2 complaints
21 October 2021	Corporate Event	1 complaint
24 October 2021	Tattoo Show	1 complaint
6 November 2021	Fireworks	1 complaint

**(Total number of noise complaints received (2021/22 1<sup>st</sup> Apr-31<sup>st</sup> March) -5)**

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 The Council's Head of Legal & Governance has been consulted in the preparation of 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. Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Events

## APPCT Board 13 December 2021 - CEO's Report, Appendix 1 – Events Schedule

*Red indicates items added since last reported*

### Theatre shows

7 Nov	North London Laughs (comedy fundraiser)
9 Nov	Lady Anne Glenconner
11 Nov	Black Midi (concert)
12 Nov	Yussef Dayes (concert)
14 Nov	Iain Stirling: Failing Upwards (comedy)
16 Nov	Rutherford & Fry - The Complete Guide to Everything
17 Nov	Giovanna Fletcher(spoken word)
20 Nov	Saint Etienne
26 Nov-9 Jan	A Christmas Carol
6 Feb	Bryony Gordon – No Such Thing as Normal
12 Feb 2022	Whitney – Queen of the Night
21 February	Gypsy (musical)
5 March	Music From the Movies...with London Concertante
10 March	Maverick Sabre
17 March	Tommy Tiernan: Tomfoolery
19 March	Reginald D Hunter: Bombe Shuffleur
23 March	An Evening with Andrew Cotter, Olive and Mabel
26-27 March	Ludovico EinaudiL Underwater
31 March	Greentea Peng
3 April	Jimmy Carr: Terribly Funny
7-30 April	Jane Austen's Persuasion
16-17 June	Dylan Moran – We Got This
24 September	Martin Bayfield's Rugby Legends
21 October	Ladysmith Black Mombazo

### Large Events (Great & West Hall)

11 Nov	Suede (concert)	
12-13 Nov	London Grammar (concert)	
19 Nov	Glass Animals (concert)	
20-21 Nov	Sam Fender	
4 Dec	Enter Shikari concert	
7-10 Dec	Mosconi Cup	West Hall only
15 Dec – 3 Jan	Darts	
9-16 Jan 2022	World Snooker Masters	
24 February	Tripoe Redd presents: Tripp at Knight Tour	
25 Feb 2022	Mogwai concert	
4 March 2022	Gojira	
5 March 2022	Disclosure	
25 March	Future Islands	
1 April	Franz Ferdinand	
14 April	Khruangbin	
29 April	Peter Kay's Dance for Life	
6 May	Architects	
7 May	Metronomy	
17 May	James Blake	
19 May	Charli XCX	
25 May	Michael Kiwanuka	
28 June	Lorde	





## C - Ice Rink

20 November	Haringey Huskies vs Peterborough Phantoms 2
6-12 December	The Nutcracker on Ice
8 January	Haringey Huskies vs Cardiff Fire
29 January	Haringey Huskies vs Swindon Wildcats 2
5 February	Haringey Huskies vs Basingstoke Buffalo
19 February	Haringey Huskies vs Solent Junior Devils
19 March	Haringey Huskies vs Guildford Phoenix
19 February	Haringey Huskies vs
19 February	Haringey Huskies vs

## D – Park Events 2021

1-22 December Christmas on the Hill (sustainable Christmas tree rental)

## E – East Court

3-23 December Santa's Grotto

## D – Park Events 2022

13 Feb 2022	Running Event	Park
19 - 24 April 2022	Cycle Show	Great Hall, West Hall, Palace Suite, Londesborough Room & Park
3 - 4 June 2022	Streatlife	Panorama Room & Park
18 - 19 June 2022	Streatlife	Panorama Room, Park
29 - 30 July 2022	Streatlife	Panorama Room, Park
15-19 June 2022	Pavilion Concert Series	Pavilion, Park
30 June - 4 July 22	Red Bull	ALL Areas
15 July 2022	Provisional Music Concert	South and East Slope
16 July 2022	Primal Scream	South and East Slope
22 July 2022	Fat Freddy Drop	South and East Slope
23 July 2022	Kaleidoscope	All areas
24 July 2022	Provisional Music Concert	All areas
20 August 2022	Summer Festival	South Slope
26 – 28 August 2022	Pavilion Bank Holiday Event	Pavilion, Park
2-7 November 2022	Fireworks	ALL AREAS