



**ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**24 JANUARY 2022**

**Report Title:** CEO's Report

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

**Purpose:** This report provides a brief update to Trustees on current issues and projects at Alexandra Park and Palace. More detailed information including the events programme and will be provided at the next meeting in March 2022.

**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 In December 2021 the Trust received confirmed that its application to the government's latest round of the Culture Recovery Fund was successful. The £702,000 grant will help to offset the ongoing impact of the Covid pandemic, contributing to essential operating costs such as utilities, security and staffing, and help us to plan a calendar of cultural events in 2022 to generate further income.

2.2 The tender process for the car park charging project is complete, with final recommendations for the award of contract included on this agenda.

2.3 Planning, Listed Building and Advertising consent has been formally for the compost toilet in the Outdoor Creative Learning space, Improvements to the outdoor beer garden (the Terrace) and Park signage.

2.4 Open Forum Proposal

2.4.1 Proposals to pilot an Open Forum were considered by the Statutory Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Consultative Committee (CC) in November 2021 and by the Trustee Board in December 2021. There appeared to be consensus from the committees and the Trustee Board that the engagement structures need to be modernised to be more inclusive and diverse to better reflect the stakeholders and beneficiaries for the Charity today and in the foreseeable future. The Board felt that the pilot should proceed and that there should be an active CC during the pilot but the number of meetings would be less frequent whilst the pilot is active, to alleviate the administrative burden on the Trust and the Council.

- 2.4.2 The next step, now that the Board has had the opportunity to discuss the proposal, will be to have further discussions with the SAC and CC about the aims of such a forum and the success criteria before putting a final plan in place to start the 2 open forums a year.
- 2.4.3 If there is no clear way forward the Trustee Board is recommended to record the attempt to improve engagement against our governance improvement register and ask for the SAC and CC to come forward with alternative proposals to improve engagement with the Charity, its beneficiaries and stakeholders including improving the diversity and effectiveness of the committees.

### **3. Park Update**

- 3.1 The Community Payback scheme is going well. The group are being hosted by the Alexandra Park Club and working on vegetation management around the perimeter of the cricket ground. The partnership will continue.
- 3.2 Grow Back Greener application was unsuccessful. Currently applying to the Mayor of London's Rewild London fund. This is a bid for funding to undertake a feasibility study for a SuDS and wetland creation scheme to improve habitats and connectivity with the Wood Green Reservoir, whilst solving some of the issues of boggy ground and blocked drains to improve the visitor experience. The Trust is working with the Friends of the Park, Thames Water and colleagues at Haringey Council.

### **4. Repairs, maintenance and improvements since last reported:**

- November periodic inspections of external elevations (bi-monthly)
- Roof leak repairs to West Corridor, Box Office, North West Hall, Ice Rink and BBC Wing
- Railing repairs to BBC Tower entrance steps
- Plaster consolidation to ornate plaster base to Theatre proscenium arch
- Installation of replacement roller shutter to West Hall Loading Bay exterior (following impact damage beyond economic repair)
- Replacement of ceiling the Roman Bar Servery/Bar area (following waste water flooding under insurance claim)
- Renewal of lighting to Roman Bar Servery/Bar area by in house engineers, as part of the above
- Remedial works completed to Theatre roof gutters (roofing within defects period)
- Retention monies released upon satisfactory making good of defects on the East Wing Restoration Project
- Renew broken panes in polycarbonate screens to Great Hall external lobby South West store doors and redecoration
- Refuge alarm remedial works
- Servicing the CCTV, fire extinguishers, Kitchen guard & Ansul system, fire alarm nodes, automatic doors and roof/smoke vents
- Inspections and testing of the Lightning protection systems (annual), Lifts and West Yard Goods Lift

## 5. Creative Learning

- 5.1 In December we announced the Shortlist for Biblio-Buzz 2022: Alexandra Palace Children's Book Award. This annual initiative that encourages children aged 9-12 to get reading, participate in workshops and events, vote for their favourite book, and then see the winner crowned at a special ceremony in the Theatre.
- 5.2 Artist Melissa Scott-Miller who leads a drawing class called Nocturnal interiors, came to the Palace with some of her students in November to draw the Palace, which was lit up and thronged with Theatre goers and ice skaters. Melissa originally came with other artists to sketch the Theatre in 2018, and the painting 'Restoration' by David Sawyer RBA, which hangs in the Theatre foyer, was inspired by this visit. The painting is on long-term loan from a member of the Friends of Alexandra Palace Theatre.
- 5.3 On 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December approximately 200 local children performed Christmas carols in the East Court from the following schools and local choir groups:
- Campsbourne School
  - The Willow
  - Rhodes Avenue
  - Trinity Primary Academy
  - Coleridge
  - Rokesley Juniors
  - Haringey Junior and Senior Vox
- 5.4 During the run of A Christmas Carol in the theatre we had planned to run pre-performance workshops "Your Christmas Carol" for children over the age of 11 aimed to explore ways to create characters inspired by classic tales, however, these were cancelled due to the pandemic.
- 5.5 The Big Schools SEND Big Moments 2021 project came to a close in December. This was a dance project which SEN schools took part in, they learnt various dance routines through videos created and posted on YouTube, they also took part in creative workshops through YouTube which we commissioned various artists to teach them about costume, make up, how to film and stage their dance. They then filmed and sent in to ParaDance UK who asked professional dancers to judge for the best dances. There was an online ceremony on Thursday 16th December.
- 5.6 To promote the benefits of outdoor activities a gardening club for students from a non-maintained special school and sixth form has been established. This is for children aged between 4 – 19 who are diagnosed with autism. The eager students are in their third week of the club, and they are learning basic gardening skills, warmed by the occasional mug of hot chocolate! The workshops are led by Forest and Family who run our successful forest school programme.
- 5.7 Regular activities have resumed including:
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|--------------------------|--|
| Every Tuesday            | Five Bells Computer Club   |
| Every other Tuesday      | Community Group rehearsals, Ukulele Group.                                   |
| Every Wednesday          | Jazz Ensemble, Nursery Group Forest School                                   |
| Every Thursday           | Haringey Young Carers, Singing for the Brain, Riverside School forest school |
| Every Saturday           | Coaching sessions in Creativity Pavilion                                     |
| Sundays in November      | Rangers Skill Sharing (Park & Transmitter Hall)                              |
| Two Monthly young carers | creative activity and social events (ice skating and games)                  |

- 5.8 The Pangolin Project will be a live ticketed event in the Creativity Pavilion on 14<sup>th</sup> May. The Creativity Pavilion will be transformed and the audience will take part in an immersive evening of film screenings and live performance all around the theme of how the pandemic changed you. To support the event the theatre group Mama Quilla will work with participants from various community groups to explore how the pandemic changed them to create a short film which will also be shown at the event taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> May. <http://www.mamaquilla.org/>
- 5.9 We hope to confirm a Creativity Camp for the February half term focusing on clowning/comedy performance.
- 5.10 A Skate Jam fundraiser will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April in the skate park to raise money for some skate park upgrades. This is being organised by North London Skate Club with support from the Creative Learning team. There will be various competitions throughout the day for different age ranges and skateboarders, BMX and scooters.
- 5.11 The Global cinema club is being planned for a date (to be confirmed) in April and 2 or 3 short films will be shown, a 10-minute spoken word performance and a singer all highlighting the experience of being LGBTQ and belonging to the Turkish and Greek Cypriot community.
- 5.12 We begin a new project in February with the University of the Arts London, who will create films to be video mapped onto structures to be displayed either in the East Court or the Transmitter Hall. The theme will be celebrating the anniversary of the BBC.

## **6. Events**

- 6.1 Boxing will be returning to Alexandra Palace in February with Eddie Hearn's boxing showdown between super-middleweight John Ryder and two-time middleweight World Champion Daniel Jacobs.
- 6.2 More information on events and activities can be viewed on our website <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/> . A full update on events will be provided in the next report to the March meeting

## **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**

None