



ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD MEETING

15 MARCH 2022

Report Title: CEO's Report

Report of: Emma Dagnes, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose: To update the Trustees on current issues and projects at Alexandra Park and Palace and provide additional information on the events programme and the Trust's activities.

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 confirmation 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 Car Park Charging

2.2.1 Following a restricted tender exercise, the Trustee Board approved the award of the car park charging contract on 24 January 2022. The internal working group has reconvened and will discuss the implementation and communication plans with the Trustee Board at a workshop on 21st March.

2.2.2 The tender evaluation process was thorough and all submissions were of high quality. The successful supplier evidenced extensive experience, expertise and highly flexible approach and an acute understanding of the dynamic environment in which they would be operating.

2.3 Accessibility Map

2.3.1 In addition to the existing visual guides, a new accessibility map of the Park and Palace has been added to our website accessibility page, which highlights available facilities and the structure of the site.

2.3.2 There are two versions of the map, for live events and non-event days. We've also produced an alternate version of each map that is suitable for people with colour vision impairments.

2.3.3 The accessibility page can be viewed at the following link:
<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/visitor-information/accessibility/>

2.3.4 As part of this ongoing project we will be investigating assistive technology such as screen readers to further improve our accessibility.

2.4 Open Forum

The Trustee Board will workshop the aims and objectives of the Open Forum at a workshop on 21st March taking into account the feedback from the SAC/CC in November. The action plan will be presented to the SAC/CC in June 2022.

2.5 Storm Eunice

2.5.1 Following the Met Office Amber/Red weather warning arising from Storm Eunice, the decision was taken to close the Park & Palace on Friday 18th February.

2.5.2 The decision was assessed by the senior team against the potential risk to life and/or injury. As Alexandra Palace had suffered wind damage from notably lower windspeeds in the past, closing the building, car parks and discouraging visitors to the Park was the appropriate course of action in order to protect customers, park users and staff members as well as the charitable assets.

2.5.3 Communications went out via social media and directly to stakeholders and local residents and Ice Rink ticket holders on 17 February and the site was secured, as much as possible, to minimise the potential for damage.

2.5.4 We reopened as planned on Saturday 19 February but with restrictions due to the impact that the Storm had on key areas such as the Palm Court and East Court.

2.5.5 A survey has been undertaken to assess the damage and works will be taking place over the coming months to make good those areas that suffered. Currently there is nothing of note that raises concerns that the Palace will not be able to return to its normal operations within the coming weeks.

2.5.6 Damage to the Park was minimal and is a testament to the hard work of the Parks Manager and the onsite John O'Connor team.

3. Park Update

- 3.1 The Community Payback scheme continues. The schedule is for the group to work clearing the race course perimeter until the end of February. They will then move to the Transmitter Hall for two sessions weeding and cleaning the south terrace. Following this they will move to the Grove for a programme of work for the summer, such as weeding and mulching shrubs beds and clearing paths.
- 3.2 A programme of tree work has taken place across the Park. Mainly fellings and crown reductions as part of ongoing tree safety management. Traffic management was in place for three days as the fourth and final phase of reductions of the chestnuts along Alexandra Palace Way took place.
- 3.3 The culture recovery fund grant was used to reconstruct the final sections of the path on the south front and the link path to North View Road. This project provides greater resilience to the pathways as use increases as we head into the summer months.
- 3.4 A legacy gift from a long time member of the birders club and a well known local figure has funded habitat management works at the 'cricket scrub'. This generous gift has enabled a small part of the Tree and Woodland Management Plan to be implemented. Tall trees have been removed or cut back and invading dog wood has been grubbed up to preserve the low, bushy scrub habitat that is popular with migrant birds. Volunteers from the Friends of the Park and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) held a work party to create dead-hedges from the cut material to provide new refuges for invertebrates and to reduce disturbance.
- 3.5 To help reduce noise and emissions in the Park, the contractor John O'Conner (GM) Ltd has purchased battery equipment. The team now has two battery powered push mowers, two battery powered hedge cutters, one battery powered long arm hedge cutter and three battery powered grass trimmers.

4. Repairs, maintenance and improvements since last reported:

- Lighting renewal to Ice Rink 10th January to 11th February
- January periodic inspections of external elevations (bi-monthly)
- January inspection of Theatre ceiling, walls and proscenium arch (bi-annual)
- Theatre North Wall rainwater goods - remedial works by Willmott Dixon in January with further works to follow
- Drainage CCTV survey/clearance to stacks serving Hallmasters toilets
- Timber beam repair/re-support and ceiling renewal to South East Office Building staircase January/February, with redecoration ongoing
- Upgrade of fire alarm recommenced to back of house areas and concluded to Great Hall high level gantries
- Fire alarm servicing
- Goods lift servicing
- PAVA major maintenance visit
- Access Control planned preventative maintenance
- Generator major service
- Renewal of suspended ceiling to Great Hall Gents toilets, wall repairs to East Corridor stairs, and glazing replacements Great Hall external doors
- Water planned preventative maintenance visit
- Fire extinguisher remedial works

- Floor repairs and tidy to BBC Studios including minor re-glazing to Victorian staircase
- HV/LV overnight shutdown and testing on 8th/9th February to whole building
- Fixed wiring inspections commenced to main event areas as part of phased programme

5. Creative Learning

5.1 Biblio-Buzz 2022

5.1.1 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.

5.1.2 There are 32 schools registered, 2 from Camden, 2 from Enfield and 28 from Haringey. Approximately 1,100 young people will engage with the programme around 800 school pupils and a further 300 independently through the libraries.

5.1.3 Biblio-Buzz was launched with a public event on 29th January in Wood Green Library. Shortlisted author Anna Goodall read extracts from her book and children's book illustrator Alice Haskell ran workshops on children's book design. 34 people participated in the event, which was attended by the Council Leader, Director of Culture and Library Services.

5.1.4 The Creative Learning Team arranged for 120 copies of the shortlisted books to be donated to the library, to support circulation of the loans.

5.2 The first addition of our outdoor learning book *Wild in the Park* was published in January copies have already been placed in all 9 Haringey Library and will be on sale in local books stores, online and in the East Court.

5.3 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.-

5.4 Regular activities continue including:

14-18 February	Half Term Creativity Camp
Every Tuesday	Five Bells Computer Club
Every other Tuesday	Community Group rehearsals, Ukulele Group, Baby Jazz.
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)

5.5 The Pangolin Project

5.5.1 This is a live ticketed event in the Creativity Pavilion on 14th 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.

5.5.2 To support the event the theatre group Mama Quilla will work with participants from various community groups to explore how the pandemic changed, participants will learn creative writing and film making skills whilst making their own short film, which will also be shown at the event taking place on 14th May. Participants will receive £50 per day to attend the workshops to help ensure that the programme is inclusive. <http://www.mamaquilla.org/> .

5.6 A half term Creativity Camp took place in February and was focussed on clowning and comedy performance. 9 young people took part (although 14 registered for the event with 8 of the places offered for free via Children's services).

5.7 A Skate Jam fundraiser will take place on Saturday 9th 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. Young skaters have been invited to create poster designs to promote the event – the winning design will be used as part of the promotion campaign.

5.8 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.

5.9 We began 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. Students have begun working with Kirsten Forrest, Interpretation & Curation Manager, drawing upon imagery from AP's archive.

6. **Activities and Events**

6.1 The event schedule attached at Appendix 1 has been updated with new events highlighted.

6.2 Confirmed and Provisional Park Events

Friday 22nd April until Sunday 24th April – the Cycle Show will take place with the East Slope, opposite Go Ape and Forest School, for cycle testing.

Sunday 3rd July – Red Bull Soap Box Race, proposed to open from 9.30am and close at 6pm. As previous years, Alexandra Palace Way will be closed to traffic in the build-up, during and break-down of the event.

Saturday 16th July – Primal Scream will take place in the park - same location as the stage is set for Kaleidoscope.

Sunday 17th July provisional for outdoor concert to be confirmed

Friday 22nd July – Fat Freddy’s Drop will take place in the park same location as the stage is set for Kaleidoscope

Saturday 23rd July – Kaleidoscope the festival takes place in the park, main halls and basements

Sunday 24th July – Higher Ground, headlined by Patti Smith, will take place in the park same location as the stage is set for Kaleidoscope

Further information will be provided to SAC / CC in future meetings and by email once arrangements have been finalised with the organisers.

6.3 Alexandra Palace Theatre Productions

6.3.1 The theatre continues to attract exceptional performers and is ever evolving so we would encourage SAC and CC members to keep up to date by visiting www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on

6.3.2 It is also worth highlighting that Alexandra Palace and Rose Theatre Production in association with Oxford Playhouse will bring all the sharp observation and quick wit of **Jane Austen’s** novel **Persuasion** to the stage without a bonnet in sight this year.

6.3.3 The play, which was first seen at the Royal Exchange Theatre in 2017 will run from 7th April 22 until 30th April 2022 at Alexandra Palace Theatre.

★★★★ ‘Enjoyable and exhilarating’ – *The Guardian*

6.4 Members are reminded to regularly check our blogs at the following link: <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/about-us/blog/>

6.5 5 complaints about event noise have been received since 1st April 2021 to date, with no new complaints since last reported:

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

7. Legal Implications

7.1 The Council’s Head of Legal & Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The Council’s Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Events

9 March 2022 - SAC/CC - Item 6 CEO's Report, **Appendix - Events Schedule**

New items added since last reported include rearranged/ postponed shows

Theatre shows

- 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
- **New** 18 March Comedy, Comedy, Comedy, Drama with Bob Odenkirk
- 19 March Reginald D Hunter: Bombe Shuffleur
- 23 March An Evening with Andrew Cotter, Olive and Mabel
- **New** 25 March Bibliobuzz (Creative Learning)
- 26-27 March Ludovico Einaudi: Underwater
- **New** 31 March – 1 April Ed Sheeran
- **New** 2 April Rainbow Nation Charity Gala 2022: Acceptance
- 3 April Jimmy Carr: Terribly Funny
- 7-30 April Jane Austen's Persuasion
- **New** 1-2 June Simon Amstell – Spirit Hole
- **New** 4-5 June Ronnie O'Sullivan & Friends Live at Ally Pally
- **New** 9 June An Evening with Reverend Richard Coles & Friends
- **New** 15 June Joan As Police Woman
- 16-17 June Dylan Moran – We Got This
- New 1 – 28 August Theatre production
- 24 September Martin Bayfield's Rugby Legends
- 21 October Ladysmith Black Mombazo
- **New** 12-13 Nov Woman to Woman – Beverley Craven, Judie Tzuke, Julia Fordham & Rumer
- **New** 1 – 30 Dec Theatre production

Large Events (Great & West Hall)

- **New** 12 Feb. Matchroom Boxing
- 5 March 2022 Disclosure
- **New** 12-13 March Crafterama exhibition
- New 19-20 March The London Festival of Railway Modelling
- 25 March Future Islands
- **New** 29 – 30 March Tool Fair
- 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
- **New** 27 May Mogwai
- **New** 28 May Bloc Party

- New 17 – 19 June Haringey Box Cup
- **New** 25 June Greta Van Fleet
- 28 June Lorde
- **New** 30 August Live event in Great Hall and Theatre
- **New** 30 Sept Parkway Drive
- **New** 20 Oct Franz Ferdinand

Large Events (Great & West Hall) continued

- **New** 31 Oct Moderat
- **New** 25 Nov Sea Girls
- **New** 15 Dec – 01 Jan Sporting event
- **New** 8-15 Jan 2023 Cazoo Masters

Ice Rink

5 February Haringey Huskies vs Basingstoke Buffalo
 19 February Haringey Huskies vs Solent Junior Devils
 19 March Haringey Huskies vs Guildford Phoenix

Park Events 2022

New 1 April – 25 Sept.	The Terrace	
22 - 24 April 2022	Cycle Show	Great Hall, West Hall, Palace Suite, Londesborough Room & Park
3 - 4 June 2022	Streatlife	Panorama Room & Park
30 June - 4 July 22	Red Bull Soapbox Race	ALL Areas
16 July 2022	Primal Scream	South and East Slope
New 17 July 2022	Provisional Music Concert	South and East Slope
22 July 2022	Fat Freddy Drop	South and East Slope
23 July 2022	Kaleidoscope	All areas
New 24 July 2022	Higher Ground	All areas
4-5 November 2022	Fireworks	ALL AREAS