



ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD

29 September 2022

Report Title: CEO's Report

Report of: Emma Dagnes, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose: To update 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. Executive Summary

2.1 This report provides a general update including Creative Learning and Park activity, external lighting upgrades and planning, advertising and listed building proposals considered by the Committees at the last meeting.

2.2 An event summary following the July 2022 outdoor programme.

3. National Period of Mourning

3.1 Following the announcement of the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Alexandra Palace implemented our protocol for national mourning. This included:

- Raising, lowering, and flying the flag at half and full mast at various stages throughout the mourning period as per protocol
- Visitor Services managing a book of condolence in the East Court
- Front of House staff, if they wished to do so, wore black arm bands
- Social media/ AP What's On updates kept to a minimum and considered against the mood of the nation
- Keeping tenants and leaseholders informed
- Events took place/ were postponed as considered fit and agreed with organisers and the Palace was closed on 19th September, the day of the Queen's Funeral.

3.2 The Joint Advisory and Consultative Committee meeting on 8th September was cancelled as a result of the announcement and items will be deferred to the next meeting of the Committees on 17th November.

4. Financial Update

4.1 2021-22 Accounts

The Trustee Board will be asked to approve the Trustees 2021-22 Annual Report and Accounts for sign-off at Exempt Agenda Item XX, after which the report will be submitted to the Charity Commission and published.

4.2 2022/23 Position

There has been no change to the Trust's financial position for the current year, since reported in July. [Link to Haringey Council 19 July Board meeting documents pages](#)

5. Park Update

5.1 Delighted to have retained the Green Flag Award for 2022. The judge's comments were very positive:

"There is clearly a strong relationship between the GM [Grounds Maintenance] contractors and the various community groups which has been built up over time. This is positive, and on the visit, we were impressed with the ownership from these groups. The manager has a critical eye and is clearly very aware of a range of the small issues that are starting to affect various elements of the Park. The key will be if this can be communicated in the management plan with a clear action plan of how and when these things will be dealt with. The budget and resource constraints are recognised but other innovative ways to deal with things could be considered."

5.2 Park visitor numbers are currently above the pre-pandemic average.

5.3 Two poor quality footpaths (the North View Road and South Slope paths) were reconstructed with the money from the Culture Recovery Fund, although the dry weather has caused the clay edging to dry out on the heavily used South Slope path. The Contractor is reviewing the damage and will consider the cause and possible repair work.

5.4 Further works which will be undertaken in the coming months include reconstruction of the collapsed speed tables on Alexandra Palace Way, addressing the erosion caused by heavy rain on the path, and work to address the collapsing brick walls at Bedford Road and the play area.

5.5 The volunteer gardening group have been busy, and the results of their work were evident for all to see when the wild flower area was in bloom in early summer.

5.6 The group will be taking on the challenging task of improving the shrub beds around the boating lake this autumn; spreading woodchip provided by John O'Conner to improve the soil and planting a few new shrubs to fill gaps in the beds.

5.7 The prolonged hot weather has been challenging for the Park. The increased use brings more litter, vandalism and wear and tear to deal with. The dry conditions also pose an increased fire risk.

- 5.8 We have been reminding visitors that our Byelaws prohibit fires in the Park including BBQs and put in some additional measures in place during August:
- Signage installed across the Park
 - Increased security patrols on weekends and the bank holiday
 - Enhanced communications on social media
 - Partnership working with the local fire brigade, who have increased their presence in the Park and supporting the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

We have also been reminding visitors and staff, if they spot a fire risk, to not put themselves in danger or confront other visitors using BBQs, but to report to the Palace's Security Control via 020 8365 4331 or visitor.services@alexandrapalace.com and to contact 999 if they see a fire, in the first instance.

- 5.9 The trees are under stress and have been losing leaves during July and August. The Park team have been out watering the trees planted during winter 2019-20 during the Grow Back Greener Project funding by the Mayor of London.
- 5.10 The boating lake also suffers in long hot spells. The water levels drop, and oxygen levels can be depleted as algae blooms in the warm sunny conditions. The addition of nutrients through feeding the birds exacerbates this issue. The aerators have been operating and supplying oxygen to help maintain the water quality.
- 5.11 The local Police, in partnership with Professionalism Headquarters, held an open bike-marking and violence related crime prevention stall in the East Car Park on the afternoon of 3rd August.

6. Maintenance, Repairs & Improvements

Lighting in the Park

- 6.1 External lighting across the site relies on outdated infrastructure, including sodium lamps, which although efficient, can be hazardous and are no longer in production. As lights have failed, where possible they have been replaced with LED lighting and where appropriate, solar powered lights have been trialled.
- 6.2 The strategic routes, which currently have mains powered lighting and could switch to LED are: Alexandra Palace Way, the Car Parks, and Dukes Avenue (Dukes Avenue was completed in 2021). Alexandra Palace Way is the highest priority, and the Trust will be working to replace 56 lamps and ballasts (which provide the current to the light) on the road (and one column in the East Car Park) with LED lights. The pillars and posts were upgraded in 2012 and are structurally sound and will not be replaced.
- 6.3 11 of the 24 lights in The Paddocks Car Park are currently not working and a condition survey is required before LED lighting can be considered. Tree cover would limit the effectiveness of solar lighting in this area.
- 6.4 The Grove Car Park, has two lights (one of which does not work) and has been identified as a potential sight for 4-6 solar powered units.
- 6.5 The Trust aims to ensure a programme of works to replace defunct lights and non-operating post with solar powered options, near the Old Deer Enclosure and the paths in The Grove.

- 6.6 A Victorian style solar powered unit, in keeping with the current decorative style lights in the park, has been ordered. At the time of writing this report the timeframe for delivery was unknown.
- 6.7 The park lighting project is complex and presents multiple challenges due to the age of the infrastructure. It should be noted that the APPCT team have worked hard to investigate, trial, and find solutions to mitigate the need for invasive and costly approaches such as simply replacing like for like, which would not meet the organisations commitment for a sustainable future. The upgrades, trials and further innovations will continue, as will reviewing the feedback that we receive from visitors and stakeholders.

Other works

- 6.8 During July works have included, pigeon deterrent netting replacement in the West Yard, Great Hall roof glazing renovations and lamp column installations on Alexandra Palace Way and upgrades to the Palace Suite.

7. Creative Learning

7.1 Young Actors Company

7.1.1 On 6th July, Alexandra Palace's first ever Young Actors Company held its inaugural performance in the Theatre with a matinee and evening showing attended by c250 people. The Company – the first of its kind in the history of Alexandra Palace – is made up of 26 actors (whittled down from 90 strong applicants), all aged 18-24, based in Haringey, neighbouring boroughs and wider London. The performance called Fragments, was a fast-paced examination of human connection and hope for the future amid the challenges of 21st-century London life.

7.1.2 Next for the Company will be a series of Masterclasses working with a range of artists and teachers, including writers, directors, actors, and movement directors. The Company will then work on a text for performance early 2023

- 7.2 Haringey Shed's performance of Transmission, celebrating the history of television and 100 years of the BBC took place on Friday 12th August, in the Transmitter Hall. The show was performed by thirty young people to an audience of c60.

7.3 Assistant Producer Role

7.3.1 In July we advertised for the recruitment of a new Assistant Producer role, for 1-year fixed term, within the Creative Learning team. The purpose of the role is to support a young people aged 16-24 to launch a career in the creative sector.

7.3.2 The successful candidate will be working with our Young Creatives Network and on Haringey's Cultural Impact Award project, as part of the Mayor or London's Borough of Culture programme, which will include activities throughout 2022 leading up to a large-scale Haringey Feast event in the summer of 2023.

- 7.4 The second Global Cinema Club took place in June showing, films, spoken word performances and music that draws on the experience of LGBTQ and belonging to the Turkish and Greek Cypriot community.
- 7.5 In June, 30 students University of the Arts London, completed interactive films that video mapped onto structures East Court to engage audiences with stories that celebrated the anniversary of the BBC.
- 7.6 At the time of writing this report, 46 young people were booked to attend our summer creativity camps. This year's five-day workshops cover: Spoken Word Street Art Comedy Improv Song writing and Theatre.
- 7.7 More information on the above activities will be given at the meeting during the Creative Learning Presentation.
- 7.8 The Matchroom Foundation
- 7.8.1 In June, we successfully bid to Matchroom Sport Charitable Foundation for another 3 years of funding for our outdoor learning programme **Wild in the Park** (often referred to as 'forest school' by participants).
- 7.8.2 Since August 2019, we have helped over 3000 young people to learn more about nature and enjoy themselves outdoors, in turn helping to develop Alexandra Park as a place of learning, creativity and discovery.
- 7.8.3 Looking ahead, we aim to engage in more depth with the volunteer programme, young people aged 16-24, adults and older people with dementia. We will create bespoke projects to engage with these different groups to allow the whole community access to our outdoor provision.
- 7.8.4 We also aim to do even more outdoor events such as the Poetry Picnic, and Skate Jam in the park and, with the return of the Great Fete next year, we will be engaging many local community groups to take part in and lead creative activities as part of the day festival. This will include a stage at the Great Fete where young people aged 16-24 will be able to showcase their talents and curate a programme of exciting activities and acts.

8. Summer Events Programme Update 2022

Red Bull – 3rd July 2022

- 8.1 Red Bull Soapbox race returned for the 5th year to Alexandra Palace on Sunday 3rd July 2022. Red Bull Soapbox Race is an international event in which amateur drivers race home-made soapbox vehicles, powered by the force of gravity. Experienced racers and amateurs alike compete against the clock in the downhill race.

- 8.2 The event was attended by c15,000 people and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive from both event attendees and the client. Highlights from the event can be found at [Red Bull Soapbox Race London 2022: Official Event Page](#)
- 8.3 Operationally the event requires Alexandra Palace Way to be closed. This year the road closure went in at 00:01hrs on Friday 1st June and re-opened to traffic at 4pm on Monday 4th July. The site was cleared and returned to use within 48 hours, during the post event site walk four areas of concern were identified, damage to a manhole cover a missing reflective bollard (those these first two are believed to have been damaged prior to the event taking place). Damage did occur to the wild flowerbed and a tree branch was broken in the Rose Garden. Lessons learnt have been learnt from these incidents and will be addressed for future years.
- 8.4 The event received two noise complaints please see paragraph 10.5 for more information.

South-Slope Park Events 16th, 22nd & 23rd July

Primal Scream – 16th July

- 8.5 Playing their seminal 1991 album *Screamadelica*, Primal Scream entered *Ally Pally* history books by being the first single act to perform a gig in the Park. All other performances in the past have been part of festivals or multi-band line ups. The event received a number accolades and lead singer Bobby Gillespie said *“To follow the forefathers of Rock and Roll... It’s part of British youth culture. That’s why I think Alexandra Palace is really special: underground Rock and Roll culture.”*
- 8.6 Operationally Alexandra Palace Way was closed from 06:00 hours on Friday 15th July and re-opened to traffic by 2pm on Sunday 17th July, as advertised. The “event site” which is also deemed a construction site whilst not in event mode was kept closed for the build of the forthcoming events, namely Fat Freddy’s Drop and Kaleidoscope. Access from East to West of the park was provided by a 4m meter walk-away which was signposted and lit at night, with security patrols in place.
- 8.7 Six noise complaints were logged please see paragraph 10.5 for more details

Fat Freddy’s Drop – 22nd July

- 8.8 Fat Freddy’s Drop are a band from New Zealand well known to playing Gigs at Alexandra Palace, however this event was their first in the Park. The event was well received. The road closure went in as advertised at 06:30 hours on Thursday 21 July due to Kaleidoscope as advertised and lifted post that event (see below).
- 8.9 Fifteen noise complaints were logged please see paragraph 10.5 for more details

Kaleidoscope – 23rd July

- 8.10 Alexandra Park and Palaces own festival returned in 2022 with an exceptional line-up, extended children’s zone, and lots of wonderment to be enjoyed by those who attended. Feedback has been exceptional both through social media and press, there is always room for improvement, but overall, the team are proud of the

achievement particularly during an increasingly challenging time due to supply chain issues from infrastructure to staffing.

- 8.11 Post-event clearing took place in phases agreed by operational teams prior to the event and, with the exception of a water ballast in the Fairground which was collected a day late, site clearing targets were met:
- AP Way reopened at 2pm on Sunday 24th July
 - The lower section of the South Slope re-opened at 9am on Wednesday 27th July
 - Main staging area by 9am on Friday morning.

- 8.12 34 complaints have been received about event noise in the current year:

Date	Event	Total Number
4 June	Streatlife	1
3 July	Red Bull	2
16 July	Primal Scream	6
22 July	Fat Freddy's Drop	15
23 July	Kaleidoscope	10

*complaints from same address are treated individually and recorded as such

- 8.13 The event schedule is attached at Appendix 1; however, the programme of events is ever evolving, and we encourage committee members to keep up-to-date by visiting www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on.

9. Legal Implications

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

10. Financial Implications

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

11. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Events

12. Background Papers - None

Appendix 1 - Schedule of events September 2022-March 2023

Appendix 1 Events Schedule	Location	Date
Parkway Drive	ALL AREAS	30 September
Tycho – Dive Live	Theatre	1 October
The Black Blues Brothers	Theatre	2 October
The Knitting and Stitching Show	ALL AREAS	6-9 October
Cass McCombs	Theatre	13 October
Mind Body Soul Exhibition	ALL AREAS	14-16 October
OM Yoga Show	ALL AREAS	14-16 October
Franz Ferdinand	ALL AREAS	20 October
Sum 41	ALL AREAS	21 October
Ladysmith Black Mombazo	Theatre	21 October
Aitch	Main Halls	22 October
Crouch End Festival Chorus – Adams to Elgar	Theatre	23 October
Paulo Nutini	Main Halls	25-26 October
One Step Beyond with Suggs & Friends with Paul Weller	Theatre	27 October
London Gay Men’s Chorus: The Halloween Ball	Theatre	28-29 October
Kasabian	ALL AREAS	29 October
Moderat	ALL AREAS	31 October
Fireworks	Park	4-5 November
Maggie Rogers	ALL AREAS	10 November
The Delines plus special guests	Theatre	11 November
Woman to Woman – Beverly	Theatre	12-13 November
Jamie T	ALL AREAS	18 November
Sea Girls	ALL AREAS	25 November
M Huncho	Main Halls	30 November
Sea Girls	ALL AREAS	1st December
Bicep	ALL AREAS	2-3 December
Rapunzel On Ice	Ice Rink	5-12 December
2022 – 2023 World Darts	ALL AREAS	15 December 2022 – 3 January 2023
Christmas Production	Theatre	December 2022– January 2023
2023 Cazoo Masters	ALL AREAS	8-15 Jan 2023
You Me At Six	ALL AREAS	11 February 2023
What’s Love Got to Do with It	Theatre	11 February 2023
Gojira	ALL AREAS	22 February 2023
Robyn Hitchcock	Theatre	25 February 2023
Don Broco	Main Halls	25 February 2023

Additional information can be found at: www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on