



JOINT MEETING OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

17 NOVEMBER 2022

Report Title: CEO's Report

Report of: Emma Dagnes, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose: To update the Advisory and Consultative Committees on Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust activities and events programme.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - N/A

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note the content of the report.

2. Executive Summary

This report includes the information that was due to be presented at the meeting on 8th September, which was cancelled due to the death of the Queen, and provides:

- 2.1 2021/22 year-end information on annual complaints, theatre activity and outdoor events monitoring, which, due to the timing of meetings, was not available for publication for the Joint meeting of the Committees in June 2022.
- 2.2 Creative Learning and Park activity, and updates on external lighting upgrades and some of the planning, advertising and listed building proposals considered by the Committees at the last meeting.
- 2.3 An event summary following the July 2022 outdoor programme and details of the Christmas programme and future events.

2021/22 Year End Monitoring Updates

3. 2021/22 Complaints Monitoring

- 3.1 355 formal complaints were recorded about the Trust's services and facilities in the period from 1st April 2021 to March 2022. 319 complaints were from event and ice-rink customers.
- 3.2 In addition to the formal complaints recorded, the Trust's Security Control office and Park Manager dealt with more than 1140 incidents and additional calls about issues in the Park from members of the public, leaseholders and other stakeholders including.

4. 2021/22 Theatre Activity

- 4.1 2021-2022 saw the theatre flex between operating as a premium recording/rehearsal location and welcoming audiences. Over the year the theatre saw more than 190 tenanted days and more than 150 public performances.
- 4.2 As Covid-19 restrictions changed across the course of the year the theatre adapted our public performance offer in line with government requirements, including offering a socially distanced run of the Gruffalo over the summer.
- 4.3 Highlights include:
- 8 comedy shows, 15 music shows and 13 *an audience with...* shows including Quentin Tarantino, Bob Odenkirk and JK Rowling.
 - Donald Glover's Golden Globe and Emmy winning Atlanta used the theatre as a location for Series 3, shooting over three weeks.
 - The theatre continued to develop projects and deepened relationships with our Great Hall artists, London Grammar, Michael Kiwanuka both recorded in the theatre and Coldplay visited twice for rehearsals and a shoot.
 - London Philharmonic, Academy of St Martins and London Symphony Orchestra all rehearsed in the theatre.
 - The theatre was an integral part of the Christmas experience at Ally Pally with a critically acclaimed run of A Christmas Carol starring Mark Gatiss.
 - The Duke of Cambridge's inaugural Earthshot Prize ceremony was hosted in the theatre in October – BAFTA's live event of the year 2021, watched by 4 million people. The event was developed by the BBC Live team.
 - The theatre also worked with the BBC Live team on the BBC1 Big Weekender 2021, Later... With Jools Holland and the finale banquet of The Great British Menu.
 - Standing music shows including Maverick Sabre, Yussef Dayes and Ed Sheeran.
 - Creative Learning projects such as Dr Cinderella and the Biblio-Buzz Awards.
 - Community performances included Crouch End Festival Chorus and Be On Pointe Ballet School Show.
- 4.4 For more information please view our Theatre promotional video which gives a taste of the programme and recent activity: <https://youtu.be/qRugTl1aM8c>.
- 4.5 We also published two Theatre specific blogs:
<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/blog/music-during-lockdown/>
<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/about-us/blog/>

5. 2021/22 Year End Outdoor Events Monitoring Framework

- 5.1 An Outdoor Monitoring Framework is in place to observe the impact of events held in the Park and to ensure areas are cleared and returned to routine use within 48 hours after large events.
- 5.2 Two large scale events (Kaleidoscope & Fireworks) took place in the Park in 2021, and the site was cleared and reopened within 48 hours on both occasions.

- 5.3 Four minor issues were reported within the Park following Kaleidoscope (3 plastic joints and one metal pipe from the staging infrastructure were left on the grass). These were promptly removed and fed back as necessary to teams and event partners to enable learning for future events.

Alexandra Park and Palace Current Year Updates (2022/23)

6. Park Update

- 6.1 We were 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.”

- 6.2 Park visitor numbers are currently above the pre-pandemic average.
- 6.3 Further works which will be undertaken in the coming months include reconstruction of the collapsed speed tables on Alexandra Palace Way which since the original report was written has now been completed, addressing the erosion caused by heavy rain on the path, consultants still working on solution, and work to address the collapsing brick walls at Bedford Road and the play area.
- 6.4 The results of the Volunteer Gardening Group work were evident for all to see when the wildflower area was in bloom in early summer.



- 6.5 The group took on the challenging task of improving the shrub beds around the boating lake in the autumn; spreading woodchip provided by John O'Conner to improve the soil and planting a few new shrubs to fill gaps in the beds.
- 6.6 The prolonged hot weather in the summer was challenging for the Park. The increased use brought more litter, vandalism and wear and tear.

- 6.7 The dry conditions also posed increased fire risk and we put additional measures in place to remind visitors that our Byelaws prohibit fires in the Park including BBQs including:
- 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.
- 6.8 The trees were under stress and lost leaves during July and August. The Park team have been out watering the trees planted during winter 2019-20 during the Grow Back Green Project funding by the Mayor of London.
- 6.9 The boating lake also suffered due to the long hot spell. The water levels drop and can cause oxygen levels to deplete 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.
- 6.10 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.

7. Maintenance, Repairs & Improvements

Lighting in the Park

- 7.1 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. Conversion to LED lights along the entire route of Alexandra Palace Way is expected to be completed in December 2022.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 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.

- 7.6 We have fitted a number of solar powered units across the Park as part of a new pilot scheme, one of those units is a decorative Victorian style solar unit, which would replace the current Victorian sodium lighting, this is purely for decorative purposes and does not omit high levels of light. The light TWe are assessing the performance of the lights across the winter months.
- 7.7 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

7.8 During July works included, pigeon deterrent netting replacement in the West Yard, Great Hall roof glazing renovations and lamp column installations on Alexandra Palace Way.

7.9 In August:

- Backstage Bar works – Palace Suite Upgrades
- Palm Court maintenance & Roof vent upgrades
- Theatre Courtyard Ramp installation
- East Court Roof vent upgrades

September

- Main Roof replacement 61 double glazed units to southern bays – Great Hall
- Crane lift of DGU's to corner roofs SW & SE – Great Hall Roof/South Terrace
- Roof vent upgrades – East Court Dome
- External Elevation inspections – Palm Court, SW Tower/Colonnades, Great Hall (South)
- External Elevation inspections – East Court, BBC Tower/Colonnades, Great Hall (South)
- Bespoke design/manufacture and installation of hanging mechanisms for 46 fabric roof cones - Panorama Room – Part storm damage/insurance claim
- Painting of Fire Exit stairs – Palace suite to North Yard
- Dismantle interpretation structure – East Court South Atrium
- External Elevation inspections – Theatre North, NW Tower, Great Hall (North)
- External Elevation inspections – West Yard Building, Great Hall (North)

October

- Repair & redecoration of Clerestory Windows – PCS5
- Reconfiguration of Interpretation Structure – East Court, Ice Rink Side
- Panorama Roof work ongoing
- EMI mast installation – East Court
- East court glazing repairs & vent upgrades

November

- Periodic inspections to external elevations – Rear (East)
- External repair & redecoration SW Pavilion/PCS5
- Periodic inspections to external elevations – Front (West)
- Periodic inspections to external elevations – Rear (West)

- Asbestos removal & cleaning – BBC Studios Ground & 1st Floor. Storm damage/insurance claim
- Periodic inspections to external elevations – Front (East)

8. Creative Learning

8.1 Young Actors Company

8.1.1 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.

8.1.2 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

8.2 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.

8.3 An Assistant Producer has been appointed, 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 careers in the creative sector. The Assistant Producer will also work 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 the Haringey Feast event in 2023.

8.4 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.

8.5 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.

8.6 46 young people attended the summer creativity camps. The five-day workshops covered: Spoken Word Street Art Comedy Improv Song writing and Theatre.

8.7 Young Creatives Network update:

- The Network has been working across the libraries in Wood Green on a project called Transforming Places, on how they can encourage young people 16 to 24 to use those spaces. The outcome will be to create a series of library late nights where young people can see live music and dance and make noise.
- Write To Speak: will be a seven-week performance poetry programme, exploring young people's experience of living in Haringey – sessions will take place in Saint Annes and Marcus Garvey Library, Bruce Grove and rising Green throughout November and December.

- In December, BBC Academy will be running a series of workshops teaching people how to create podcasts, This will lead to a series of young people's podcasts called Views from the Palace and will chart young people's issues and concerns.
- This year's Biblio-buzz launches on 21st November when we will announce the shortlisted authors. 6 novels have been shortlisted by school librarians from across the borough, and young people can also access that program either through their school or local library.

8.8 Matchroom Sport Charitable Foundation have committed to a further three years of funding for our outdoor learning programme **Wild in the Park** (often referred to as 'forest school' by participants). Since August 2019, this programme has helped 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. 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.

8.9 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

8.10 The Wellness Café rebranded: Cafe Palais, reopens Monday 7th November providing an opportunity for older people to come together, have fun, stay warm and end enjoy tea and cake.

8.11 The East Court interpretation structure has had a makeover to mark the centenary of BBC and will launch in December. It now showcases the topmost 5m section of the prototype television transmitter tower from the EMI Research Laboratories at Hayes, in Middlesex and is the first tangible expression of our new strategic partnership with EMI Archive Trust.

Sited now in the East Court at Ally Pally in the shadow of the BBC mast erected in 1935, as the cornerstone of our TV heritage exhibit, the significance of this piece of media technology is huge. Through its display and interpretation, we will: tell a story of heritage at risk; provide clear links to STEAM subjects for school curriculum workshops; be able to graphically illustrate the relationship between the physical and the ethereal nature of television and radio.

Where the very earthly steel and concrete of the footings meets the magic of broadcast transmissions, is an almost perfect partnership between STEAM and the arts, because the arts of radio and television are nothing without the mast, and the mast is useless without the arts. This rusting steel structure represents the means of beaming education, information and entertainment into the nation's homes

8.12 Campsbourne Project: A consultation event took place on Saturday 22nd October to engage with local people in future planning for the Lower East field. APPCT secured funding from the GLA to explore developing wetland and learning centre in this area of the park – this was the first of many activities designed to engage communities and consult with them about our plans.

- 8.13 As part of Haringey Council's Active Communities programme 260 young people ice skated and 140 played golf on the Pitch & Putt in subsidised sessions in August.

9. Summer Events 2022 summary

- 9.1 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.
- 9.3 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](#)
- 9.4 Operationally the event requires Alexandra Palace Way to be closed. This year the road closure went in at 00:01hrs on Friday 1st July 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.
- 9.5 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

- 9.6 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.*"
- 9.7 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.
- 9.8 Six noise complaints were logged please see paragraph 10.5 for more details

Fat Freddy's Drop – 22nd July

- 9.9 Fat Freddy's Drop are a band from New Zealand well known for 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).
- 9.10 Fifteen noise complaints were logged please see paragraph 10.5 for more details

Kaleidoscope – 23rd July

- 9.11 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.
- 9.12 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.
- 9.13 41 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
22 October	Aitch concert*	1
23 October	Paulo Nutini*	1
29 October	Kasabian*	1
4 November	Fireworks build (sound checks)	4

*complaints from same address, refused sound technician visit

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.

10. Legal Implications

The Council's Head of Legal & Governance 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 November 2022-March 2023

Tom Allen book launch	Theatre	8 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
Zain Zohaib	Theatre	18 November
Dames of Thrones	Theatre	19 November
Central Cee	ALL AREAS	22 November
BOXXER presents Sky Sports Fight Night	Main Halls	26 November
Light in the Piazza	Theatre	27 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
Bugsy Malone	Theatre	December 2022– January 2023
2023 Cazoo Masters	ALL AREAS	8-15 Jan 2023
Crouch End Festival Chorus	Theatre	28 Jan 2023
Roxie Nafousi Manifest Workshop	Theatre	4-5 February 2023
You Me At Six	ALL AREAS	11 February 2023
What's Love Got to Do with It	Theatre	11 February 2023
Carly Rae Jepsen	ALL AREAS	15 February 2023
Sticky Figures	ALL AREAS	18 February 2023
Gojira	ALL AREAS	22 February 2023
Easy Life	ALL AREAS	25 February 2023
Robyn Hitchcock	Theatre	25 February 2023
Grace Campbell	Theatre	11 March 2023
Crafterama	Main Halls	11-12 March 2023
London Festival of Model Railway	Main Halls	18-19 March 2023
Don Broco	Main Halls	25 March 2023
Bastille	Park	14 th July 2023
Kaleidoscope Festival	Park	15 July 2023

Highlighted sections are the new events since last reported.

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