

MINUTES OF THE ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2022, 7.30-9PM

SAC Appointed Councillors: Ibrahim, Weston, and Ali.

SAC Nominated Members: John Crompton, Kevin Stanfield, Elizabeth Richardson, David Frith, Jason Beazley, and Joyce Rosser.

CC Appointed Councillors: Collett, Stennett, Mahbub, and Da Costa.

CC Nominated Members: John Wilkinson, Hugh Macpherson, Jacob O'Callaghan, Gordon Hutchinson, Nigel Willmott (chair), Rachael Macdonald, and Val Paley.

Also present: Emma Dagnes (CEO), Jack Brooks (Head of Visitor Services), Mark Evison (Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability), Natalie Layton (Charity Secretary), and Jack Booth (Principal Committee Co-ordinator).

Quorum: No business shall be transacted at any meeting of a Committee, Sub-Committee or other body, unless at least one quarter of the whole number of voting members are present.

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

A member commented that these committee meetings should be streamed and recorded to ensure the public could access them virtually.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Councillor Brennan who was unable to attend as there was a clash with an Adults Scrutiny Panel;
- Adrian Thomas;
- Councillor Wallace;
- Councillor Rossetti;
- Councillor Arkell;
- Councillor Elliot;
- Annette Baker; and
- John Thompson who had elected Rachael Macdonald as a substitute.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

- a. To approve the minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Advisory and Consultative Committees held on 20 June 2022 as a correct record;
- b. To note the draft minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 June 2022;
- c. To note the draft minutes of the Consultative Committee meeting held on 20 June 2022; and
- d. To note the minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board meeting held on 19 July 2022.

6. CEO'S UPDATE

The Emma Dagnes, CEO, introduced the report updating on activities since before the summer including 2021/22 information on complaints, theatre usage and outdoor events monitoring that had been due to be presented at the cancelled meeting on 8 September.

Also included were updates on Creative Learning , Park and Events activity, external lighting upgrades and planning, advertising and listed building proposals considered by the Committees at the last meeting.

NOTED in response to committee members' questions:

- Annual Park visitor numbers had been monitored over eight years:
 - o 3 million pre-pandemic;
 - o 6 million during the pandemic;
 - o 4 million post pandemic;
- Solar lighting was installed in the Park where possible and the new solar lights could blend-in with the existing lights;
- The Charity looked at creating a variety of partnerships to utilise all areas of the Park and Palace;
- The Creative Learning Team, including the Assistant Curator Role, were currently funded entirely through the Heritage National Lottery Fund secured as part of the East Wing Restoration Project. The team were doing important work, reaching over 70 community groups and programming a range of events and workshops with a small team
- The A in STEAM stood for Art (Science, Technology Engineering, Arts & Maths);
- The Charity had obtained Greater London Authority (GLA) funding for feasibility work for a rewilding project and would be applying for a second round of funding to implement the project
- The Wellness Cafe had resumed (relaunched under the name 'Café Palais') to counteract pressures around the cost-of-living crisis, to provide a warm space and improve wellbeing for local residents;
- The current season of Later with Jools Holland was being filmed in the theatre;

- A committee member congratulated the CEO on the success of the Kaleidoscope Festival, which had received positive feedback and more than 9000 people had attended;
- Regarding financial challenges the Charity was looking forward and continuing to focus on our custodianship. Expenditure is not at the level it needs to be to maintain the estate, even though the grant was reducing. The Estate Guarding Team were not park rangers and did not have enforcement powers. People experiencing anti-social behaviour in the park should phone the Police in the first instance
- The Committees congratulated on success of Wild in the Park and new round of funding the benefits of the provision. **Action** connect Mark Civil with Cllr Ibrahim Ali about the outreach and how to amplify

RESOLVED to note the content of the report.

7. PLANNING REPORT

The CEO provided an update on project proposals previously presented to the Committees and sought the Committees' views on the possibility of extending Planning and Listed Building Consent for the use of the temporary pagoda on The Beach, the Committees raised no objections to the proposal

In response to questions the CEO gave the following answers:

- The pagoda required planning permission as it was a structure that would be in place for more than 21 days up; and
- The opening hours of the bar were discussed. The CEO said that the opening hours were extended on a case-by-case basis.

RESOLVED

- a. To note the updates, and;
- b. To note the proposal to apply to the Local Planning Authority for Planning and Listed Building Consent to extend the use of the shaded wooden structure (the pagoda) on The Beach for two additional months a year (from March to November each year).

8. ACCESSIBILITY

Jack Brooks, Head of Visitor Services gave a presentation on the work undertaken to improve accessibility at Alexandra Palace including:

- Improvements to accessibility had been a project conducted over three years. With specific challenges through the fact that the Palace was a Grade II listed building and the geography of the site;
- In 2017 Alexandra Park and Palace received a 2/10 for accessibility from the organisation Attitude is Everything. This was an extremely low score;

- Since he had joined as the Head of Visitor Services in 2019 there was now a dedicated accessibility team. This team had made a whole host of improvements such as:
 - o Ensuring a drop-down bar service;
 - o Accessibility information on the charity's website;
 - o Creating a range of accessibility policies and procedures;
 - o Expanding the amount of companion tickets and spaces;
 - o Engendered staff awareness of challenges around accessibility through trainings, which were delivered regularly across the workforce;
 - o Ensured there was braille signage, where before there was none;
 - o Made provision for British Sign Language;
 - o There was now a dedicated accessible entrance for concerts;
 - o Accessibility maps had been created, which were made suitable for visitors who were colour blind;
 - o There was a changing places project planned. To enact to this project, the charity was fundraising. Of the £85,000 needed, £50,000 had been raised; and
 - o The Recruitment and Employment policies had been reviewed and updated to ensure accessibility for staff.
- Attitude is Everything had since awarded the Charity silver status. and a Disability Smart Awards 2021;
- the Charity had also secured funding for a changing places facility, which would take the organisation nearer towards gold status with Attitude is Everything one of only 15 organisations nationally to achieve this.

In response to member questions the Head of Visitor Services gave the following answers:

- The recently installed pétanque court in the Park was accessible;
- The accessibility team were part of the Visitor Services team employed on both full time and part time basis';
- There was a hearing loop in the Theatre but not in the main halls as the music was incredibly loud;
- The Park currently did not have a dedicated sensory garden at present, Jack's focus currently was to ensure that the Palace met exemplary standards for disability access. When this phase was completed, he would look at ensuring accessibility in the Park;
- A drop-down service was a lowered bar for people who were not able to order drinks at a standard size bar;
- Access platforms were placed with evacuation, toilet access, and health and safety concerns in mind; and
- Volunteers are invited to the accessibility training as well as staff and also sit in briefings and know the access areas and procedures

RESOLVED to note the report and presentation provided at the meeting.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Mark Evison, Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability, informed the committee of the progress made on establishing an Environmental Sustainability Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for the Park and Palace.

In response to member questions Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability gave the following answers:

- Feasibility studies would need to be done around rainwater capture and solar panel installation. It was hoped that the Charity would be able to access further funding from the GLA for these studies.
- Projects that would create energy efficiencies would be prioritised. One example was the 50 39% of which had automatic lighting and it was hoped that more automatic would be introduced;
- It was agreed that it was important to consider the impact of work done on
- Biodiversity is important for sustainability and enhancing it in the Park is important. Mark admitted that there was little in the policy but biodiversity is in the action plan and in the Tree & Woodland Management Plan and something that Mark is always thinking about. Needs to be mentioned regularly and kept in people's minds when talking about development such as installing lighting etc.
- Food waste data was available with the organisation's waste management supplier and increased data monitoring would become a focus, with the aim of reporting to the board and committees through a data dashboard.

RESOLVED to note the report and presentation provided at the meeting.

10. SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING FRAMEWORK (DRAFT)

The CEO relayed that the purpose of the agenda item was to consult with the committee on the proposed framework for the signage and wayfinding.

A committee member gave feedback that it would be good if signs had QR codes to provide visitors with additional information. The CEO thought this was a good idea and would relay it to her team. Funding was the main obstacle to signage at the park was funding. Progress was being made in acquiring funding for this, although yet there was nothing material to speak of.

The Committees were generally supportive and raised no objections to the draft Signage and Wayfinding Framework document.

RESOLVED to note the proposed framework for signage and wayfinding, attached at Appendix 1.

11. ALEXANDRA PALACE SPORTS CLUB

The Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability consulted the committee on the proposal by the Alexandra Palace Club to install additional cricket nets on the site.

The proposal was from the Alexandra Park Club to install a new three lane cricket batting and bowling net facility at the club on the site of the old tennis courts on the western side of the clubhouse. This, if approved, would sit alongside the existing one lane net that the Club have already and replace the second which is unfit for purpose.

In response to questions the Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability gave the following answers:

- It was flagged by a committee member that the area adjacent to the proposed area was an important place of bird migration in the area. Could the Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability assure the committee that there was no lighting for the nets and that in the construction of the nets, excavated material would not be dumped in this area. The Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability said there was no lighting being installed with the nets. The dumping of excavated material could be put on as a condition when the board considered this item; and
- There was no biodiversity impact as netting would be packed away after use.

RESOLVED to advise the Board when considering the proposal, that a condition be placed on the permission to ensure that any excavated material was removed from the Park.

12. MATTERS RAISED BY INTERESTED GROUPS

None.

13. NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS FEEDBACK

None.

14. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday, 9 March 2023 at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated.