



**ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**26 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Report Title:** CEO's General Update

**Report of:** Emma Dagnes, Chief Executive, Alexandra Park & Palace

**Purpose:** To Provide a General Update on activity of the Trust to the Board of Trustees.

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

**1. Recommendations**

To note the content of the report and consider any feedback from the stakeholder committees.

**2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1 This report provides a general update including Creative Learning, Park, Property and Events activity. The Advisory (SAC) and Consultative (CC) committees were invited to consider the information during their respective meetings on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**3. Planning and Strategic Project Updates**

- 3.1 The Grove Masterplan:  
Unit38, the specialists leading on the *Shaping The Grove* public engagement exercise gave a brief presentation to the SAC & CC on 25<sup>th</sup> January setting out the approach. The online survey is now open [Shaping the Grove \(jotform.com\)](https://jotform.com) and contains 27 multiple choice questions, and text boxes for additional comments, to establish how users and non-users feel about The Grove. Posters are available for distribution in the local area and the survey will be pushed on social media to maximise participation. Some of the ideas raised during the survey period will be tested at free events in the Grove during the Easter Holidays on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- 3.2 North East Office Building (NEOB) Repairs:  
The first phase of works to make the NEOB watertight have started and are expected to complete in May 2024. Discussions with external funders about the next phase have been taking place and bids are being prepared.

### 3.3 Campsbourne Building Reactivation

We are working to find a solution to a funding gap in order to bring the building up to the required standards for allowing public access.

### 3.4 Northern Area of the Park:

An online visitor survey was launched in October to gather feedback and opinions on the northern part of the Park (skatepark, playground and Boating Lake). The purpose of the survey is to gather data that can be used to build the case for moving forward with improvement projects and to help with funding asks.

### 3.5 The People's Picture (150 Lifetimes)

The project will culminate in the installation of a giant mural in the East Court, as well as the replacement of the various interpretation / information boards located around external areas of eastern end of the building (the BBC Tower, Transmitter Hall). Statutory applications including Listed Building Consent and Advert Consent will be required and, at the time of writing, the applications were being prepared for submission to the Planning Authority.

### 3.6 Café Restaurant

A multidisciplinary team are currently working on layout designs (RIBA 0-2) which will be discussed with the Planning Authority prior to a formal application being made later in the year.

## 4. **Maintenance, Repairs & Improvements Since Last Reported**

### 4.1 **November**

- Fire alarm upgrades in Gracie Fields room (Theatre)
- Upgrades to lamppost cabling in the Park and on the South Terrace
- Upgraded cabling to link accessible WC's and alert Security Control
- Additional inspection and safety work to SW Colonnade interior elevations
- Completion of double glazed unit replacements to Great Hall roof (39no. in total predominately to northern bays)
- Masonry repairs to Great Hall and West Corridor plinths

### 4.2 **December**

- Panorama Room: foyer drape installation, renewed coverings and framework to roof link between Panorama Room foyer and Palm Court
- Metalwork installations including East Court door threshold plates to entrance, Level 1 floor grille and North Service Yard handrails
- West Hall and BBC Tower fire door remedial works
- PAVA (Public Address and Voice Alarm System) major service

#### 4.3 **January**

- Panorama Room toilet roof (leak) repairs, cleaning, temporary replacement lining and repositioning of heaters (damage caused by growth of tree branches)
- Johnson servery (various leaks) investigation and repairs
- Various CCTV camera improvements
- East Court various electrical works
- Great Hall / Ice Rink noisy smoke vent compressor replaced
- Ice Rink air handling unit maintenance (dampers replaced on 2 units)
- South Slope lighting – underground cables replaced
- LED and emergency lighting installation work started in the South East and South West staircases to gantry
- Deep cleaning in public areas following the Christmas Programme.
- North East Office Building Repair Project – Site set up to East Car Park/Theatre Courtyard

#### 4.4 **February**

- Panorama Room Toilets – new roof, insulation and covering fitted.
- Johnson servery refurbishment started (ceiling and floors)
- South East Office Building - power, lighting, emergency lighting and data cable works to bring the offices back into use
- East Court Café – power and water supply installed
- BBC 2nd floor office kitchenette replaced
- Theatre Foyer emergency exit doors modified to open individually
- Smoke Vent compressor replaced in the Ice Rink (west side)
- South East and South West and 2x plantrooms LED and emergency lighting works completed
- Paddock car park lighting repairs
- Dukes Avenue path lights replaced with refurbished Victorian style lamppost heads
- Accessible toilet alarm installed
- North East Office Building Repair Project – Removing lanterns, stripping roof and making safe
- West Lightwell glazing repairs
- Smoke vents service to Great Hall, West Hall, Ice Rink, East Corridor and North West Hall
- Great Hall roof – Crane lift to remove old double glazed units
- Roof vents service (part) to East Court
- East Court roof vents – Storm damage investigations and making safe
- East Court dome and east atrium- Leak investigations and erection of scaffolding for access and repair
- Palm Court glazing – Storm damage investigations, making safe and reglazing
- Ice Rink trenches – Investigation and repair to floor trench behind West Stands

4.5 The Henry Willis Organ pedal reed restoration work is due to complete early in February. The pipes were removed for restoration by specialists in 2022 and are being reinstated bringing the organ back into use. This project was funded by the Alexandra Palace Organ Appeal.

## **5. Park & Environmental Sustainability**

5.1 The park crew have collected a total of 145 tonnes of rubbish (to November 2023) and, at the time of writing this report, another 10-15 tonnes were estimated for December. The expected 155-160 tonnes for the year is similar to 2022/23 figures (155.5 tonnes) and slightly higher than the pre-pandemic figure of 152.2 tonnes in 2018. The highest number registered was 181.9 tonnes in 2020.

5.2 This year the park team have increased collaboration with external volunteer groups, in particular the involvement of The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). Large corporate teams have provided support in expanding paths in the Blandford area, improving visibility, enhancing safety for the public, and maintaining tidiness. Gardening volunteers have been active caring for the Park's formal horticultural features, including the Rose Garden, south front lavender beds, and wildflower bed. They have also contributed to the installation of new planters by the Theatre Courtyard.

5.3 Significant efforts have been dedicated to enhancing traffic safety throughout the Park. In addition to the annual hard surface survey and repairs and continuous road signage maintenance, new road line markings were completed in April 2023. Temporary road safety measures were implemented near the farmers market site, and speed limit signs are currently being installed at the Paddocks slip road.

5.4 In 2023, eight new memorial benches were installed, and three benches were renovated with the financial support of bench donors. Additionally, three new rubbish bins were installed, replacing the most damaged ones. A process for refurbishing notice boards has been established; two signs will be taken off-site at a time for refurbishment and temporary signage will be in place during the process, which will include fundraising messaging to contribute towards the work.

5.5 Additional security staff were deployed on New Year's Eve to oversee the c6,000 people who attended the site to watch fireworks across the London skyline. The road was closed to traffic (with the exception of buses and emergency vehicles) from 9pm and the South Terrace was fenced off to protect the building. Whilst no major incidents were recorded, fireworks were launched from the South Slope and among crowds by many of the visitors and security officers were required to extinguish a number of residual fires.

5.6 We have published a new blog about our plans to improve the Park.  
<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/blog/improving-the-park/>

- 5.7 Alexandra Palace's Staff Green Team conducted a night-time energy use survey of the Palace building to identify any lights and equipment a running through the night and then work out why and identify possible improvements/ solutions.

## 6. Creative Learning

- 6.1 Focus is on projects to commemorative Alexandra Palace's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary continue including outreach towards an exhibition and mural concluding in the Spring of 2024. <https://thepeoplespicture.com/alexandra-palace-150/>
- 6.1.1 1,800 People have submitted photographs and memories of Alexandra Palace to help create the mural by artist Helen Marshall.
- 6.1.2 16 community curators have been working with the Curation and Interpretation Manager and Head of Creative Learning to mount a new exhibition marking the 150<sup>th</sup>, which will launch in March. The exhibition will celebrate 150 people, past and present, who have helped shape and safeguard the future of the Park and Palace. The exhibition will focus on broadening the discussion of the Palace's history to include previously unheard stories and voices. The community curation team meet once every week to hear from experts including those from other heritage venues and organisations such as Bruce Castle, The Irish in England, The Whitechapel Gallery and Avril Nanton the author of Black London.
- 6.1.3 Alexandra Palace's Young Actors Company are currently working with the former Associate Director of The Hampstead Theatre, Jonny Siddle, on a version of Macbeth based on the young people's experiences of living in Haringey. The performance will take audiences on a tour of the Palace's basements, opening this rarely seen space for visitors as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> programme.
- 6.1.4 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary inspired tours will take place in January for schools, pupils and the public. Fifteen volunteers will deliver the Theatre tours with a steward that will talk about the By The People: 150 Lifetimes projects. At the end of each tour the visitors will be encouraged to share their memories of Ally Pally with the volunteers so that these can be captured and become part of the project.
- 6.1.5 Schools taking part in our 2024 Biblio-Buzz challenge will also be encouraged to participate in By The People: 150 Lifetimes by visiting with groups of children bespoke tours. The tours will be followed by workshops with one of our education facilitators about how the children can put together their own exhibition in school. Six volunteers are devising a new tour script to include stories that will capture the imagination of the children.

- 6.1.6 At the time of writing, five of the schools had signed up for the project. With schools coming from across the borough many will not have visited the Palace before, so this will be an opportunity for them to create their first memories of the Palace as we celebrate 150 years of memories!
- 6.1.7 Educational specialists, 2 Simple are creating a digital learning resource for primary and secondary schools to help pupils learn heritage skills in curation, interpretation and running a heritage venue, which will form part of the legacy of the 150<sup>th</sup> commemorative programme.
- 6.1.8 Residents at Latimer House retirement home worked with 'dance for camera' artists to commemorate their own experiences of living in Haringey as part of documenting people's lives from a range of backgrounds for the commemorative programme.
- 6.2 Rhythm Stick, our night club for adults with disabilities, took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> December in Marcus Garvey Library as part of the Young Creative Network (YCN) programme. The event programme included a performance by Alexis Taylor (from the band Hotchip and ambassador for the YCN) and DJ's from the disabled community.
- 6.3 Alexis Taylor also delivered a 'round table' discussion with YCN members about his experience of working in and breaking into the music industry.
- 6.4 Artist/filmmaker Joe Bloom has been working with YCN members who self-identify as disabled at the John Dewey Community College to create a film and mural for the College grounds.
- 6.5 The Creative Learning and Events teams supported delivery of the Haringey Feast event in November, assisting with administration, programming and event co-ordination.
- 6.6 36 Haringey Schools are participating in Biblio-buzz 2024 (33 in 2023), Alexandra Palace's Children's book awards, officially launched in December with an event at Wood Green Central Library on 12<sup>th</sup> December. 30 people attended the launch event and participated in a workshop run by Alix Smith, a specialist in learning through visual art, on how to design an eye-catching book cover.
  - 6.6.1 This year Enfield libraries will be participating in the programme which launches in Enfield Central Library on January 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - 6.6.2 A Biblio-buzz tour of literary based activities is currently being finalised with Haringey and Enfield Libraries which will include author readings, performances, crafts workshops, and creative writing activities. The tour runs from January to March 2024.
  - 6.6.3 As part of Biblio-Buzz 2024 the Creative Learning Team will run a four-day book festival across a range of spaces in the Palace, including in the Theatre. The programme includes literary luminaries such as Lemony Snicket, Justine Thurston and Natalie Haynes.

## 6.7 Volunteering at the Palace

6.7.1 60 Active volunteers are embedded in numerous departments across Alexandra Park & Palace and delivering: stewarding in the theatre/events, archive and interpretation, image moderation, curation, supporting creative learning activities, assistants teaching, designing/running tours, and gardening. A new recruitment drive is planned for early 2024 to increase the number of Theatre volunteers.

6.7.2 21 Volunteers supported the delivery of the Haringey Feast with all volunteer opportunities delivered by the Creative Learning team.

6.8 The Transmitter Hall and Creativity Pavilion continues to be used regularly for community group activities and rehearsals including: boxing and skating clubs, Haringey Music Service and other local music groups and the theatre school.

## 7. Events

7.1 Events in the Park will require temporary closures of Alexandra Palace Way and areas of the Park as well as changes to car parking and public transport. Details including reopening times will be publicised in due course including on Park entrances and on the Alexandra Palace website.

### 7.2 Red Bull - Saturday 22 June 2023

*The road will be closed on Friday 21 June until Sunday 23 June 2024*

### 7.3 Summer Series 2024

- Friday 12 July Bombay Bicycle Club
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July Kaleidoscope Festival

*The road will be closed from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July until Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July.*

- Thursday 18 July Suede + Manic Street Preachers
- Friday 19 July Tom Odell
- Saturday 20 July Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds

*The road will be closed from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July until Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.*

7.4 Fireworks 2024 – early November, exact date(s) tbc

- 7.6 21 noise complaints have been received in the current year (April 2023 to March 2024) and are attributed to the following events:

Noise complaints recorded for the 2023/23 Year, since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023		
Date	Event	Number of complaints
23 May	150th Celebration Party	2
30 May	Four Tet	1
10 June	Fatboy Slim	1
14 June	Bastille	2
21 July	Hozier	3
05 September	Fred Again	1
09 September	Fred Again	3
24 September	Cavetown	1
03 November	Fireworks	5
04 November	Fireworks	1
11 Dec-5 Jan	Darts	1
7-14 January	Snooker	0
<b>Total complaints to date</b>		<b>21</b>

- 7.7 As mentioned at the Advisory and Consultative Committees on 25 January, due to the lead-time in the report publication process, the events schedule is often out of date by the time the committees meet and would no longer be included in general update report. Members are encouraged to regularly review on our What's On pages at <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/> and may still ask questions during or in advance of meetings.

## 7. Legal Implications

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

## 8. Financial implications

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

## 9. Use of Appendices: None

## 10. Background Papers: None