



## ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST

### BOARD MEETING

15 JULY 2024

**Report Title:** General Update

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

**Purpose:** To inform the Trustee Board of Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust activities and the events programme.

**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 Trustees with a general update on activities and the events programme, including Creative Learning, Park, Property and Events activity.

2.2 The information was provided to the Advisory and Consultative Committees at their respective meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> July and were invited to provide advice or feedback to the Trustee Board accordingly.

#### 3. Planning and Strategic Project Updates

##### 3.1 Enhancing The Grove

- i. The public engagement exercise, led by architectural cooperative Unit38 and designers Studio Hyte, to explore potential ideas for improvements to The Grove ended with a family fun day held on 8<sup>th</sup> June. The event was co-created by Alexandra Palace's Young Creatives Network who presented some of the findings from earlier phases of the fact-finding exercise.

ii. A summary of the findings is as follows:

<b>Uses and Activities</b>	
	<p>More space for play, whether it be natural play, dedicated equipment or indoor. It should be accessible, in multiple locations and suitable for all ages. Equipment should be designed to encourage social interaction.</p>
Music and Events	<p>Desire for live music to return, alongside events for children and young adults. Improvements to the bandstand.</p>
Cafe	<p>Longer opening hours, public toilets and indoor seating.</p>
Children's activities	<p>Excellent facilities (345 and Little Dinosaurs) but lack of spaces for older children. Lots of support for more events and activities for children.</p>
<b>Access, Safety and Inclusion</b>	
Toilets	<p>Lack of toilets cited by many. Makes park inaccessible for disabled, pregnant, elderly or those with young children. Changing Places toilet needed.</p>
Access	<p>Wide range of seating needed to make socialising easier – natural seating, accessible seating, sheltered seating. Lack of signposting to the Grove itself, online and in the Park. Water leaks and damaged surfaces make it difficult for those less mobile. Lack of dropped curbs makes access to grassed areas difficult for many.</p>
Safety	<p>51% of women don't feel safe after dark. No lights at entrance of 345 or Little Dinosaurs. No increase of lighting necessarily wanted, but lower level lighting that is consistent to avoid glare and dark spots. MH bridge cited as dangerous and intimidating.</p>
Sustainable Infrastructure	<p>All buildings require upgrading. All options for retrofit should be explored before considering new builds. Additional energy sources should be explored.</p>
<b>Nature, Health and Well-being</b>	
Planting and Growing	<p>14% want to see more planting, improved environments for wildlife. Some interest in a growing space – accessible for all.</p>
Visitor Centre	<p>Regular opening hours.</p>
Keeping Active	<p>Dedicated facilities for sports/ exercise.</p>

<b>Management and Community Involvement</b>	
Park staff and Volunteers	Desire for increased staff visibility and communication with public. Only 2% aware of volunteering opportunities. Dedicated volunteering opportunities for different community groups.
Co-production	Many groups supportive of being involved in future projects and decision making. Markfield Project offer of play-out day with their users to get better understanding of accessibility for disabled children. Disability Action Haringey can help plan and review future plans. Lordship Rec User Group Forum example cited.

## 2 North East Office Building (NEOB) Repairs

- i. The project has recently moved on from a particularly challenging period. The roof was removed in March, revealing the condition of the internal walls and floors of the mezzanine level. In summary, the interior was in much worse condition than expected. Works were halted whilst detailed conversations with Haringey Council and Historic England were carried out.
- ii. An amended Listed Building Consent application was submitted in May to reflect the necessary changes to the scheme as a result of the interior condition of the NEOB.
- iii. The programme now extends to beyond the summer months (likely October completion date).
- iv. Fundraising activity towards the next phase of the North East Office Building transformation has begun following the completion of external consultancy on our fundraising appeal. An Expression of Interest to the National Heritage Lottery Fund towards the project is in progress. A verbal update, if any, will be provided at the meeting.

3.3 Campsbourne Building Reactivation: The aspiration to reactive the building for community use remains, however it is not a priority project for this financial year as there is no budget available to allocate towards the essential landlords works, and there are a number of other projects that are considered more pressing at this stage.

3.4 Northern Area of the Park: 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.

Analysis of the survey will take place in the summer with a view to build a business case for funding for the next financial year.

### 3.5 Changing Places Facility

Work on the new Changing Places facility in the Ice Rink lightwell is close to completion and will provide the Palace's first fully accessible bathroom, suitable for visitors with profound disabilities. The works have been possible through grant funding:

- Haringey Council (as part of central government initiative)
- The Chapman Charitable Trust, a grant-giving charity for organisations to promote physical and mental wellbeing, conserve our natural environment, and increase the accessibility of the arts.

Whilst installation is complete, minor finishing touches are being made and new signage has been ordered prior to formally opening of the facility.

### 3.6 Café Restaurant

The project has reached the end of RIBA (Royal Institute of Architects) Plan of Work stage 2 (concept design). An initial cost estimate has been sought, and options for next steps are being discussed, as at present the landlord's costs are prohibitive.

3.7 The Trust is preparing its annual report for 2023/24 which will be presented to the Trustee board and shared with the Committees in due course.

### 3.8 Park Byelaws Review

Feedback from committee members has been incorporated into a final draft set of Byelaws (based on the government model) and shared with the Council's Legal Teams for initial feedback. Further assessments and consultation stages in the process have been identified and will increase the project timeline, which very much depends on capacity and budget. The updated Byelaws and timeline have been shared with the trustee board and committee members by email.

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

### 5.1 South East Office Building

The spaces in the South East Building, used at temporary offices by Willmott Dixon during the East Court and Theatre construction works, have been undergoing refurbishment works since March, including full redecoration and electrical upgrades. The first floor consists of office space, a meeting room, a kitchen-break-out room and an archive storage room, which have been furnished with used items donated through a local business contact and will provide much needed staff working spaces.

5.2 Johnson Served refurbishment: rewiring, new floor and new ceilings and lighting. Design of the new counter to be decided and the two side rooms will be redecorated.

### 5.3 Sustainability

- LED replacements to all light-posts on the South Terrace – reducing energy consumption by 50%
- LED lighting (and motion sensors in the smaller rooms) installed in Transmitter Hall

#### 5.4 Other work (March – May)

- Fire door upgrades across the site and a new fire isolation shutter fitted in the Great Hall.
- New heating circulation pump installed in the BBC basement (serving the BBC tower) and associated works.

Smoke Vent compressor repair and replacement works to increase reliability and resilience (West Hall and North West Hall). Repairs to vents will continue throughout the building.

- Ice Rink
  - plant room resilience work - two new pump inverters installed that will not affect other plant machinery in case of a fault.
  - Ammonia Alarm upgrade – in the unlikely event of a leak or a spill, a dedicated beacon will alert the control room as well as a message through the Fire Alarm system, with separate alarms for a leak (small amount of Ammonia released) or a spill (major release).
  - North East seating area steps repairs
- North West Yard building roof repairs.
- Theatre – electrical inspections and PAT testing in all spaces and roof vent cover replaced following leaks during heavy rain.
- West Yard Slip Road: New windows and door installed in the security sentry box and repairs to the floor and walls. The Slip Road Barrier pole has also been replaced after it was hit and broken by a truck.
- Great Hall Toilets general maintenance.
- CCTV cabling extensions.
- Transmitter Hall and associated rooms – full rewire and additional lighting and power sockets installed, ceiling works to two rooms and additional fire detection sensors installed.

## 6. Park & Environmental Sustainability

6.1 Our waste management company, Islington Commercial Waste, delivered an awareness session at the staff meeting in April providing statistics including:

- 46% of waste was recycled between January and March 2024,
- 54 tonnes of general waste generated in the same period.
- Nearly all the recyclable materials are transported to UK sites with a full audit trail. Nothing goes to landfill.
- Waste that cannot be recycled is transferred to the North London Waste Authority centre in Edmonton to be incinerated into energy, which supplies North London with 26% of its energy.

- 6.2 The grounds maintenance team have worked every day of the year and also some extra overnight shifts to keep the park tidy and clean; they collected a total of 144 tons of rubbish this year.
- 6.3 The park received approximately 3.6 million visitors in 2023/24 financial year.
- 6.4 Following previous funding for the Alexandra Park Wetland Creation project, which paid for the feasibility studies, the Mayor of London awarded us a further £50,000 to start the first stage of the project. Further information at agenda item 10.
- 6.5 A project to standardise the bollards around the park has started. This will slowly replace the odd bollards on site, creating a more concise look throughout the park.
- 6.6 We have installed four “don’t feed bread to the birds” signs around the lake to educate visitors and avoid feeding the birds bread, which can be harmful.
- 6.7 Following a successful application to Haringey Council’s Community Carbon Fund, two grants have been awarded by the Council for the installation of Solar Panels on the Sports Pavilion roof and LED lights on the South Terrace, more information is included in the report at Agenda Item 11.

## **7. Creative Learning**

- 7.1 The Creative Learning Team have continued to deliver the regular programme for people of all ages as well as 150<sup>th</sup> bespoke celebratory events. Creative staples such as Wild in the Park outdoor learning, Singing for the Brain and Cafe Palais have been complemented by new events such as the launch of the North London Book Fest and 150<sup>th</sup> exhibition By the People: 150 Lifetimes, supported by a range of community partners including Haringey Music Services, Elite Transformations, Kaos, Haringey Create, Alzheimer's Society and many more.
- 7.2 Biblio-Buzz 2024 saw more young people aged nine to 12 years old reading for pleasure with 900 young readers attending the ceremony. Young readers were challenged to read six shortlisted texts – before taking on a range of literary challenges and voting for their favourite book. It culminated at an award ceremony on Friday 22 March in the Theatre at Alexandra Palace, plus a ceremony for the Haringey Library Service Award, where young people met authors, got their books signed, took part in workshops and Q&As, and found out who the winners were at a very special ceremony.
- 7.3 North London Book Fest  
Taking inspiration from the success of our Children’s Book Award, this year we launched an ambitious new festival to connect readers with iconic authors and up-and-coming writers, creating a feast of readings, panel discussions, Q&As, workshops and book-signings for readers of all genres and ages.

Its stimulating and diverse programme, included Natalie Haynes, Lemony Snicket, Erin Kelly, Michael Rosen, Leo Vardiashvili and Stuart Turton, as well as much-anticipated new titles from bestselling novelists and showcased

some of the year's most exciting debuts, such as Leo Vardiashvili who was in conversation with Cecile Pin. The festival also included the very best children's writers giving workshops and featured fiction written and set in Haringey. Around 3000 people took part in the festival in its first year.

- 7.4 Wild in the Park - Forest School offers outdoor learning education sessions, with dedicated experienced educators, in a secure environment for children to engage with the natural world that's rich in biodiversity. This

year we've added an additional day to the delivery of the programme as the programme grows.

- 7.5 Wild in the Park - **Skate Jam**  
Skate Jam is a daylong celebration of skating with a 2-hour skate jam for all ages. The day starts with workshops for beginners and intermediates with the after-lunch jam for competent skaters only. Despite a rival Skate Jam happening on the same 500 people attended the event.

- 7.6 By the People: 150 Lifetimes

- By The People: A 150 Lifetimes, was an ambitious project to preserve thousands of people's memories and connection to Palace, unveiled on 23 May, 2024).
- Commissions included a gigantic photomosaic of the palace created by British visual artist Helen Marshall, founder of the People's Picture, whose work also features at the Kennedy Space Center and Gatwick Airport.
- The mosaic would be created from images and stories sent us by the public including images of family days out, first steps, marriage proposals and life-affirming cultural experiences. These images were interwoven with pictures from our archive highlighting the individuals from the key moments of history, world firsts, innovation and London life that have been part of Ally Pally's unique century and a half.
- Alongside this, a community curatorial team met weekly with heritage sector experts to create a complimentary exhibition to the mosaic which would celebrate some of the lesser-known people who made a significant contribution to the ongoing success of the palace.



Unveiled on 23 May: By The People: 150 Lifetimes (by artist Helen Marshall, founder of [The People's Picture](#))  
Funded by [The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#).

- 7.7 As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations, Catherine West MP, hosted a celebratory reception in the Jubilee Room of the Houses of Parliament on 13 May where a range of funders, partners and creative learning participants got together to toast the next 150 years, shown in the image below:



Parliamentary Reception celebrating 150 Years of Alexandra Palace, held on 13 May 2024

- 7.8 Into the Grove – Community Engagement Event 8 June 2024

- 7.8.1 Supported by 5 volunteers (artist liaison, stage management, meet & greet of visitors and encouraging visitors to take part in Unit 38's survey) the event was attended by 600 people. The Theme was reimagining the Grove and taking part in public engagement to find out what people want to see happen in the space. Into the Grove was a pilot event. The event was a success, there were 3 noise complaints



but other than that extremely well received. Feedback from the public was that they would like more events/activities like that in the area.

#### 7.8.2 Performances from the stage included:

- Chickenshed –performing Tales from the Shed for young children
- Write 2 Speak – spoken word performances
- A Young Creative Network member (events management course student)
- The Bakelites – U3A jazz group who rehearse weekly in the transmitter hall
- KLEM – singer/songwriter, has led creativity camps in the past
- High Windows – YCN members
- Charlie Vaughan – VS team member
- Russeni Fisher – hosted the stage (also hosted the people’s stage at last year’s 150<sup>th</sup> party)

#### 7.8.3 Creative workshops/stalls included:

- Jackson’s Lane Circus Skills drop in workshop
- Friends of the Park stall
- Forest Schools Drop in workshop
- Arts and Crafts drop in workshop
- Aquaria COSM Terrarium Making drop in workshop
- Unit 38 stall – public engagement

### 7.9 Library Lates

7.9.1 76 people attended the event at Wood Green Library which ran from 7.30pm – 11pm.

7.9.2 To keep in with the theme of Reimagine attendees could engage with Talkaoke - Talkaoke is a pop up talk show where any can sit down and air their views around the table of chat. Talkoake is a fun and exciting way to have a debate, conversation or discussion about the things that matter to you. This was recorded and will be available on film soon. Topics discussed included Alexandra Palace and what people want to see happen there, reimagining Wood Green, green spaces and regeneration.

7.9.3 The music was hosted by DJ Yoga who had worked with a group of local young people during the Easter holiday on a music production project, the young people performed their original music. DJ Dymond kept the music flowing throughout the evening and there were live performances from local young emerging artists Dream, Chriss Ross and Dre.

### 7.10 AP Sounds

7.10.1 On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June AP Sounds broadcasted from Alexandra Palace Station on Platform 1. Jessica Sammut hosted the live broadcasts with co-hosting from Kirsten Forrest (Curatorial and Interpretation Manager) and Katie Wooten (Young Actors Company). The shows had a focus on the community aspects of AP, particularly focusing on the Transmitter Hall and the groups who use it. The shows were a mixture of recorded, live and archive content. Guests included Kirsty Baird from the Ice Rink,

North London Skate Club, Friends of Alexandra Palace Station, Ally Pally volunteers (2 volunteers took part in 2 x different programme slots to discuss the BBC Studio tours & the gardening group), EFG Boxing Club, and live musical performances from members of the young creatives network and Haringey Music Services Young Musicians.

7.10.2 A podcast is available to listen on the AP Sounds events page on the website, this is a 15 minute soundscape and designed to be listened to on the walk up the hill from the station to the palace.

7.10.3 The two live broadcasts were recorded and will be available to listen back to via a blog post on the website soon.

## 7.11 BBC Studio Tours – London Festival of Architecture

Tickets for the six tours held over two days for the London Festival of Architecture sold out almost immediately proving how much interest there is from the public to visit the BBC Studios. The tours were led by team of 11 enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers over the two days and towards the end of the tours in Studio B visitors were encouraged to explore future uses of the historic space by engaging with a call-to-action artwork created especially for the Festival by artist-teacher Alix Smith. Feedback from the

visitors (78 in total) was very positive and many have enquired about future tours for interested groups. The visitors included inquisitive members of the public, students, ex-engineers who had worked at Ally Pally for the Open University and current employees of the BBC.

## 8. Interpretation

8.1 Since last reported, the main focus of interpretation work has been in supporting the *By The People* exhibition content and image collation with additional research, writing and editing the exhibition panels and coordinating the exhibition installation in the East Court.

8.2 Other work has included filming an archive piece for BBC London, creating heritage assets and content for the North East Office Building project, collecting oral histories from a Greater London Councils archivist from 1970s and architects involved in the 1980s Palace reconstruction, delivering heritage talks and tours for teachers, Friern Barnet Local History Society; the British Cinema and TV Veterans group; and Southgate District Civic Voice.

8.3 For the second year we hosted Television, Cinema & Media students from the University of North Texas for a talk and tour of the historic BBC wing. Two groups in June were arranged for AIFS (The American Institute for Foreign Study).

8.4 Community Radio co-hosting with Jessica Sammut as part of the London Festival of Architecture, contributing heritage and archive segments with historical context for current activities.

- 8.5 Hill Dene Court memories project – working with Tom Hobden of We are UNIT and residents of the local sheltered housing community.
- 8.6 A funding application has also been submitted to BAC (Business Archives Council) for an archive cataloguing grant in collaboration with a volunteer archivist.

## 9. Events

- 9.1 Alexandra Palace won the Event Venue/Space of the Year award at February's Event Production Awards 2024. We have also been nominated in the Association of Event Organisers (AEO) Awards for BEST Venue Team - a verbal update on the outcome of the AEO awards will be provided at the meeting.
- 9.2 June saw a month long celebration of architecture and city-making as part of the annual London Festival of Architecture (LFA). The Festival's mission was to open up discussions around architecture, test new ideas, as well as reveal and promote new talent. Wood Green and Alexandra Palace were chosen as a key destination for this significant event comprising a range of free and ticketed events, workshops, tours and installations including Wood Green Library Lates and a Youth Panel Discussion and Performance at Rising Green Youth Hub.
- 9.3 Committee Members are reminded of the following events in the Park, which require temporary closures of Alexandra Palace Way and areas of the Park as well as changes to car parking and public transport.

### Red Bull - Saturday 22 June 2024

*The road and East Court car park will be closed on **Thursday 20 June** until Sunday 23 June 2024 and W3 bus diverted.*

### Summer Series 2024

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

*The road will be closed from 6am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July until 3pm on 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 6am on Wednesday 17 July until 3pm on Sunday 21 July.*

- 9.4 During the summer series Alexandra Palace will be partnering with an energy company to install an activation in the Park to promote clean energy ideas, we will provide more information as soon as possible.

9.5 Additional information about the outdoor events and temporary road/ park/ car park closures is available on our website  
<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/summer-season-resident-visitor-information/>

9.6 Fireworks - November 2024 – Dates to be announced

- 9.7 25 noise complaints were received in the financial year April 2023 to March 2024) and were attributed to the following events:

Noise complaints recorded for the 2023/24 Year		
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
29 <sup>th</sup> March 24	Sonny Fodera	3
30 <sup>th</sup> March 24	Hybrid Minds	1
<b>Total noise complaints 2023/24</b>		<b>25</b>

- 9.8 In the current year, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, there were 3 noise complaints attributed to The Grove event on 8 June.

- 9.9 At the last meeting, the Advisory and Consultative Committees were informed that, 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.

## 9. Legal Implications

The Council's Assistant Director for 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 – None

## 12. Background Papers – None