



## MEETINGS OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE & THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

Location: Creativity Pavilion, East Court, Alexandra Palace

CC: 6.30pm start

SAC: 7.30pm start

Report Title: Charitable Trust Progress Report

Purpose: To inform the SAC & CC on progress of Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust

### 1. Recommendations

1.1 To Note the contents of this report

### 2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report updates the Committee on progress to date in the financial year 25/26 and aligns with the Trust's Vision to "**Create a Sustainable Home for All That We Do.**" The work highlighted under each Goal has been selected based on progress made since the last Board report.

3. **Provide Great Entertainment and Culture for All: *Accessible and welcoming, we will continue to challenge ourselves to gain better understanding of our current and future audiences and their needs, ensuring our Cultural and Entertainment programme reflects the tastes and innovations of the time. We will support and develop opportunities for artists to showcase their talents and reach new and diverse audiences.***

3.1 **Concerts:** Concerts included Dom Dolla, Amyl and the Sniffers, Turnstile, Jyoti, Wilkinson, Electric Callboy, Overmono, Four Tet, Bad Omens and the Hives. Five of these gigs received 5-star reviews in the Evening Standard.

3.2 **Fireworks Festival:** Fireworks & Drone festival took place Friday 31st October to 1st November. The event was during Half term, Halloween and did experience bad weather. The team are reviewing options for this year. The event will take place over the weekend of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

3.3 **Sport:** Following a successful Mosconi Cup, the PDC World Darts Championship was held for three weeks in December, with the final held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. During the tournament, it was publicly announced the Darts would remain at the Palace until at least 2031, with the event increasing in capacity and moving into the Great Hall.

3.4 **Theatre Production** Successful two-week production of Woman in Black produced by PW productions held in theatre. A Christmas Carol returned for six-week run at Christmas.

3.5 **Theatre events** Jools Holland returned, in addition to a unique London Squash Classic tournament promoted by the PSA World tour. Comedy & performances from Ardal O Hanlon, Zain Zohaib, Daniel Kitson, Gustavo Santaolalla and a four-night residency in the round from Blood Orange, another 5-star review received for this concert.

3.6 **Exhibitions & Community events** included The Knitting and Stitching Show and the Mind Body & Soul show.

3.7 **Redbull:** Redbull Soap Box will return to the Park on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

3.8 **Summer Season:** Outdoor Park Concerts announced in the Autumn included The Maccabees on 9th July 2026, Wet Leg on 10th July 2026, Kaleidoscope festival

on 11th July 2026, Super Furry Animals on 12th July, two nights of The Streets on 16th and 18th July 2026 and Richard Ashcroft on 17th July 2026.

- 3.9 **Road closures:** Road closures will be in place for the outdoor events in 2026 and detailed information will be published and provided to SAC and CC in the coming months.
- 3.10 **Leisure** The Ice Rink continued delivering its courses and public skate throughout the Autumn. In December, Sleeping Beauty panto on ice and Festive Skate took place.
- 3.11 **Boat House:** The Boat House opened to the public on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2026. Opening times are 09:00-16:00. A brand-new brunch menu is available.
- 3.12 **Phoenix Bar and Pizzeria** The pub continued to maximise sales from concert and sporting event customers throughout the Autumn.

4. **Build Climate Change Resilience: *Actively responding to the climate change emergency, we will strive and challenge ourselves to take the Palace off grid within a generation, lessening our impact on the environment, reducing our energy consumption and harnessing the parkland to build climate resilience.***

- 4.1 In November, a new application was submitted to Haringey's Community Carbon Fund to support installation of secondary glazing to the Grove Cafe and 345 preschool buildings. This will increase the thermal efficiency of the buildings and improve the Energy Performance Certificate ratings. The outcome of the application is expected in Spring 2026.
- 4.2 The Theatre Green Book self-assessment exercise has been completed, and the basic level has been achieved. This exercise cuts across all departments from the theatre team, to catering, facilities and cleaning. Achieving the basic level shows that we have a certain level of sustainable management in place together with an action plan to improve. Highlights include e-ticketing to reduce paper, vegan and vegetarian food options, and a recycling system. The productions also have good practices, such as the set from *An Inspector Calls* was recycled for *Woman in Black* (and is itself 20 years old).
- 4.3 We held kick-off meetings with consultants from Mott MacDonald working on the 'Zero Carbon Accelerator' project. This scheme is funded by the Mayor of London and provides support to organisations on their journey to net zero. The project involves a review of the 2023 clean energy masterplan together with an assessment of the building improvements carried out since. The consultants will then investigate finance and funding options and the creation of a delivery plan.

**5. Protect Our Heritage Assets: Reverse the decline in the heritage asset by raising the funds needed to tackle the backlog of conservation and infrastructure repair and maintenance across the estate. We commit to utilising innovative sustainable materials and methods at every opportunity.**

**5.1 Wire in the Sky – Construction of the venue’s new attraction, Summit:** Alexandra Palace Rooftop Adventure, has now been completed and the attraction is scheduled to open on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Delivered in partnership between Alexandra Palace and Wire and Sky, this exciting new rooftop experience is expected to attract new audiences, broaden the Palace’s visitor offer, and represents a significant and positive new venture for the organisation. A light-touch conservation approach was taken to the restoration of the internal staircases that provide access to the attraction, ensuring the historic fabric was respected while enabling visitors to reach the summit and the iconic Angel of Plenty.

**5.2 East Court Masonry Works:** Conservation masonry works are continuing at the East Court, with our in-house brick masons carefully removing defective historic sand and cement repairs and re-pointing areas of failed mortar. These inappropriate past repairs have contributed to trapped moisture and accelerated decay, and their removal marks an important step in returning the masonry to a breathable, conservation-led solution.

Alongside these works, we are consulting with a range of specialist conservation expertise on the proposed limewash colour for use across the building. Early discussions have already taken place with the Area Conservation Committee and Historic England, ensuring the approach is informed, appropriate, and aligned with best practice for a building of this significance.

In parallel, a Listed Building Consent application has been submitted for the introduction of lead capping to the decorative scrolls on either side of the East Court entrance doors. This discreet but important intervention will prevent water ingress through the scrolls and redirect rainfall safely onto the roof, addressing a long-standing defect where water currently washes out the masonry joints below.

**6. Safeguard Our Green Lung for London: We will implement new technology and innovation to help local habitats and species thrive in our 196-acre park, whilst encouraging diverse audiences, new visitors and new communities to engage with and benefit from our unique environment through outdoor interpretation, events and activities.**

- 6.1 The Conservation Volunteers carried out habitat management tasks across the site with corporate groups to improve biodiversity. These included cutting back encroaching brambles and mulching young trees at Newland Field, building stag beetle loggeries and 'halo pruning' around an old oak tree. Halo pruning involves cutting back the brambles and competing tree saplings under a veteran tree to reduce competition. Groups also cut back encroaching vegetation from the clearing in the Blandford woodland and cleared brambles in the Grove spinney to make way for spring bulb planting in the future.
- 6.2 We have a new partnership with Groundwork London and a further group of corporate volunteers attended to construct a bird watching platform near the reservoir to replace the one destroyed by vandals six months ago. Some of the timber was recycled from on-site material. The project was able to go ahead thanks to a kind donation from the Friends of the Park that covered the cost of the new timbers required.
- 6.3 The Gardening volunteers have also been busy in recent months. They have planted shrubs in the new raised bed at Gate 9 (Muswell Hill) to replace ones that died over the summer, they continued their weeding and maintenance of the planters in the Theatre Courtyard and planting daffodil bulbs near the boating lake.
- 6.4 The Park maintenance team carried out Autumn tasks including clearing fallen leaves from paths and drains and cutting back encroaching vegetation around the 'pan' of the old racecourse to maintain this heritage landscape feature. They also removed over 37 tons of rubbish from the Park in this quarter.
- 6.5 In October we were delighted to achieve London in Bloom Gold awards for the following categories:
  - Large Park (over 10 acres)
  - Large Conservation area
  - Heritage Parks and Gardens

A silver-gilt award was also achieved in the Environment Award, a new category for the Park. These awards recognise the sustained effort that goes into managing the Park's landscapes, habitats and facilities. Our staff, volunteers and partners work tremendously hard throughout the year to maintain high standards, support biodiversity and ensure the Park continues to provide valuable physical and mental health benefits, alongside a wide range of habitats for wildlife. We're delighted that our ongoing work has once again received this recognition.

7. **Protect Our Archives And Share Our Stories In Innovative Ways:**  
*Celebrating our heritage and growing our reputation in the sector, we will provide environmentally sustainable facilities for the care of our valuable collections and archives to tell our stories and enable access to a wider range of people.*

7.1 In September the Trust was awarded a grant from the Business Archives Council to recruit a professional archivist and begin a cataloguing project which will improve accessibility to the Park and Palace's records. In collaboration with the Borough archivist at Bruce Castle, our Curator drew up a role description, advertised the post, selected candidates and interviewed 6 of the 18 applicants. The contract was awarded in November and by the Christmas break the project archivist had surveyed 120 boxes. Completion of the BAC funded project and report, is programmed for end of March 2026. This will leave the archive in a favourable position to attract subsequent archive funding for storage and continuing cataloguing to the Digital Asset Management system.

7.2 Archive images were provided for the Boating Lake cafe "gallery walls" in the refurbished catering area. A diverse range of old and more recent pictures, covering the 150-year heritage of the Park and Palace were selected to attract and engage both new and loyal existing customers.

7.3 Heritage displays were created for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Theatre, and Concert organ, with support from Friends of the Theatre, Alexandra Palace Organ Appeal, and volunteer community curators. Visitors to the East Court, Ice Rink and Theatre positively engaged with the themed histories. The organ-accompanied classic film night, hosted in the Great Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, provided an opportunity to enhance the customer experience by exhibiting the organ history interpretation for an appreciative ticketed audience. Clients in the Great Hall also benefited from a heritage display for the Pension Corp autumn event.

7.4 Other highlights for this autumn include: behind the scenes tours for the Trust's patrons, and the companies of *Woman in Black* and *A Christmas Carol*; being invited to contribute an article for the Hornsey Historical Society's Bulletin 67 (pub. Feb. 2026); and development of a virtual tour of the BBC studios.

7.5 Contributions of heritage content and archive research were provided to add value and insight to a number of commercial and building projects, and to Marketing/ Comms campaigns including Summit and the Panorama Room, in addition to enquiries from press and public, which widen awareness of the history and increase the Park and Palace's heritage profile.

8. **Inspire And Engage Our Communities: *Taking inspiration from our eclectic history and inspiring cultural assets, we will collaborate with our communities and partners providing a range of creative and engaging events***

*and workshops, to help people of all ages and backgrounds gain skills, explore their creativity and improve their well-being whilst cultivating warm and affectionate attachments to everything we do.*

- 8.1 **Westminster Abbey:** On 10<sup>th</sup> November, the Creative Learning team met with the Westminster Abby's Learning team to explore potential partnerships aimed at delivering conservation skills development programmes at Alexandra Palace.
- 8.2 **The Black Curriculum:** On 10<sup>th</sup> November, Omitted, a documentary-style short film by The Black Curriculum, was screened in the Creativity Pavilion. Originally scheduled for Black History Month, this presentation exposed gaps in UK curricula and included a community discussion afterwards.
- 8.3 **Carers Rights Day:** On 20<sup>th</sup> November, the team supported Haringey Council by hosting a launch event for the new Carers' Strategy at Alexandra Palace. Activities included talks, film screenings, and discussions that highlighted carers' rights and access to support.
- 8.4 **Young Creatives Network:** Flesh & Pixels - Between 21<sup>st</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December, members of the Young Creatives Network presented Flesh & Pixels, a multimedia exhibition exploring the impact of the digital world on fine art traditions and "questioning what it means to exist between the physical and digital world," held in the Creativity Pavilion.
- 8.5 **Haringey Council's Youth Cabinet:** On 26<sup>th</sup> November, Creative Learning supported Haringey Council's Youth Cabinet announcement with an event at Alexandra Palace, celebrating the formation of the new Youth Assembly. The ceremony featured declarations from elected youth representatives aged 11–25.
- 8.6 **North London Book Fest & Biblio buzz Book Awards:** Our reading-for-pleasure and literacy development programmes officially launched on Wednesday 10 December. Both events received strong local media coverage.
- 8.7 **Young Actors Company: Transmission:** On 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December, the Young Actors Company presented Transmission, written and directed by Martin Murphy. The Transmitter Hall turned into an atmospheric setting for this piece, described as spotlighting "young people's issues... with a sprinkling of humour and an overarching message of hope".
- 8.8 **Performing Arts School Open Day:** On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December, the school hosted an open day, allowing parents to observe classes and speak with teachers about pupils' progress.
- 8.9 **East Court Christmas Celebrations:** 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December – Local primary school choirs, supported by the Haringey Music Service (HMS), presented their annual carol showcase in East Court. On 10<sup>th</sup> December we officially welcomed HMS into partnership with Alexandra Palace during their performance, marking the start of enhanced collaboration. On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December, the East Court hosted festive celebrations featuring local choirs, including the Bowes Park Community Choir, performing beneath the Christmas tree.

8.10 **Talent Development Programme:** During Q3, the Creativity Pavilion's Talent Development Programme continued to support a diverse range of arts practitioners, including theatre makers, visual artists, and creative writers. The space was made available free of charge for approximately three weeks, offering dedicated rehearsal and development time to emerging and mid-career practitioners.

8.11 The volunteer gardening group met in October and November tackling the bed by the entrance gate on the Muswell Hill side and the area outside the Theatre courtyard perimeter and planted bulbs near Leo the Lion by the lake.

8.12 After two months of reading all 15 books on the Biblio-Buzz longlist, our dedicated reading volunteers came together for a lively and engaging discussion, resulting in a shortlist of six fantastic books for young readers to enjoy before voting for their favourite ahead of the Award Ceremony in April 2026.

8.13 Our Archive and Research volunteers continued with organising the physical archive onsite.

8.14 We welcomed Campsbourne Primary School back for the second year running for two tours of the East Court where the young people learnt about the history of Ally Pally through fun facts and re-created the record-breaking conga by the ice rink.

8.15 With *A Christmas Carol* running in the theatre for several weeks our dedicated team of Theatre volunteers enthusiastically welcomed a record number of visitors to the show and answered customer's questions and talked to them about the history of the Theatre.

**9. *Strengthen Our Overall Resilience: Safeguarding the assets for future generations, we will fortify our governance and raise funds through diversifying our revenue streams. This will include introducing a donor programme, building our corporate partnerships in line with our Values and attracting visitors all year round to the Park and Palace, creating a dynamic and sustainable future for the charity.***

9.1 **Individual Giving:** Launch of individual giving programme continued this autumn with the reopening this October of **Dedicate a Bench** (at £4,000) and **Dedicate a Seat** (from £500) and a targeted campaign gaining pledges to Dedicate a Seat alongside publicity for *A Christmas Carol* in our Theatre. Further new members pledged gifts through **Ally Pally Patrons** (launched in June) giving from £600 a year upwards. Our regular donors' programme, giving from £5 a month, will relaunch as **Ally Pally Supporters** in Spring 2026.

9.2 **Trusts and Statutory Grants:** we secured an increased multi-year gift this autumn from longstanding Creative Learning funders **Matchroom Foundation**. The Foundation are now lead funders of our learning programme and funding across our activity, from outdoor learning with Early Years to creative sessions with older people.

9.3 Smaller grants include funding from the **Business Archives Council** (mentioned above) towards archives cataloguing, and two awards to create a new Herb Garden in the Park Outdoor Learning Area in partnership with Groundwork UK. Garden funds were awarded from **Groundwork Royal London: 'Naturally connected'** fund and **Chapman Charitable Trust**. Capital and labour costs for the project are now secured, with further fundraising ongoing for learning programmes.

9.4 **Local Plan:** The Trust formally responded to Haringey Council's draft Local Plan consultation in December. Key points raised included the need to ensure that the Park is not considered as the default green space for new development and that appropriate funding is allocated from revenue streams such as S106 and CIL.

9.5 **IT and Network Resilience:** We continue to upgrade our IT and Network capabilities:

- We completed the migration to Infor, our new events management system. It improves consistency, communication and overall management of events and other activities. Achieving this transition "In-flight" without impacting our busy events schedule took a lot of preparation and planning, the team did a great job to ensure it all went smoothly.
- Several improvements were made to increase the resilience of our data networks and WiFi. New cabling to the core network helped reduce network incidents during the key events during this period.
- The migration of the organisation away from on-site file storage to more resilient Microsoft SharePoint and OneDrive continues. Several "pilot" departments were moved over and lessons learnt. We are taking care to configure its use so that the organization gains the benefits without compromising security. There are a significant number of files to migrate, we hope to complete the majority of the migration in Q4.

9.6 **Improving digital security:** We continue to work towards Cyber Essentials accreditation through the Government scheme:

- A Microsoft capability called Intune was fully enabled to improve the way devices are registered and monitored when connecting to our network.
- A register of all systems, including those based in the cloud, was compiled. We are working with the business owners of these systems to review and improve the use of Multi-Factor Authentication and other login security methods.
- Policy updates have been drafted to tighten up rules covering Firewall management, Password management, Systems Administration, Joiners/Changers/Leavers etc

- We plan to apply for accreditation before the end of March.

**10. Restore Derelict Spaces: *Adopting an adaptive reuse approach to restoration, we will bring currently underused, inaccessible or derelict spaces back into use, unlocking potential and enabling us to welcome everyone through our doors with a wider range of activities, entertainment and experiences.***

**10.1 Boating Lake Project:** Phase Two Completion – We are pleased to confirm that Phase Two of the Boating Lake project has now been completed. This phase focused on the full refurbishment of the Boating Lake café.

Taking on board the ideas and suggestions garnered from the play, skate and lake survey the Trust held a while back, the design intent focussed on bringing the outside indoors, creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere that enhances the visitor experience and strengthens the relationship between the café and its lakeside setting. Works included the refurbishment of a new kitchen, servery, and restaurant seating area, all designed to support efficient operation and improved customer flow.

**10.2 Conservation Works Programme:** Heritage Skills Week Completion – We are pleased to confirm the successful completion of a focused programme of conservation works and heritage skills development at Alexandra Palace. This phase centered on traditional repair techniques required to address areas of deteriorating historic fabric, particularly decorative stucco and sculptural elements.

The programme was delivered with the support of Cliveden Conservation, with specialist conservator Colin Alderman spending the week on site working directly alongside our in-house team. The intent was not only to undertake essential repairs, but to build long-term capability by sharing specialist knowledge in moulding, casting, colour matching, and the repair of ornate stucco features, including the Palace's distinctive lion heads.

As a result of this hands-on approach, the team is now trained and confident in applying traditional conservation methods, achieving high-quality, sympathetic repairs and even producing a new lion head using historically appropriate techniques. The works have significantly strengthened internal skills, boosted morale, and laid the groundwork for tackling the extensive programme of restoration still ahead.

This phase represents an important step in developing a more self-sufficient and sustainable approach to conservation at Alexandra Palace, embedding heritage skills within the organisation and reinforcing our commitment to preserving the building's historic character for future generations.

**Panorama Room Replacement Project:** In October, with support from Haringey Procurement team and an external procurement agency, the Trust ran a competitive tender exercise to find a contractor to deliver a new Panorama Room. Three compliant

bids were received, and the team are currently working through the final stages of assessments. Further updates will be provided as the project progresses.

**Creative Campus Project:** In Q3, work continued to complete outline designs, budget and activity plan for the Creative Campus project phase 1 – which focuses on bringing the Northeast Office Building back into use. An application for funding will be made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) in the early part of 2026.

**Other planning and LBC applications:** An application to install solar panels on the Boat House is imminent. Other applications due in the next quarter include the Panorama Room Replacement Project and associated works to the basements.

**11. Establish new, Exciting Partnerships: *Amplifying our purpose of enriching lives, we will strive to form stand-out partnerships with universities, colleges and creative institutes and employers to support skills development and career opportunities for people of all ages***

- 11.1 We have had conversations with national Heritage Skills training bodies to explore potential for Alexandra Palace to host trainees on site, delivering conservation of the building.
- 11.2 In December, we formally announced our partnership with Haringey Music Service. The HMS team are now based at Ally Pally, and we are looking forward to developing further opportunities for collaboration, including joint funding applications for projects.

**12. Create A Great Place To Work: *An inclusive environment where staff are happy and proud to work and feel like they belong. A culture that listens, recognises, and empowers its staff and lives by its Values and Behaviours. We will support our staff to grow and develop to achieve their potential.***

- 12.1 We continue to embed the People Strategy and deliver on Year 1 objectives of the three-year implementation plan focussing on 4 pillars: Attract, Recruit and Select Talent, Engage and Inspire our Employees, Develop and Grow our Employees and Retain Our Employees.

Everything we do is underpinned by our Values: We are Collaborative, We are Passionate & Fun, We are Resourceful, We are Open & Genuine, We are Bold.

Our 2025 survey results showed that we have improved our BCI score and we are accredited as Ones to Watch which means good levels of engagement. We are now listed in the top 100 employers and top 20 companies in Leisure and Hospitality. Executive and Heads of Levels have received briefing on results and we will now provide full details to individual team managers. Feedback from the survey is fed into our People Strategy Workplan for the year.

**13. Legal Implications**

The Council's Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report **and has no comment**.

**14. Financial Implications**

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

**15. Use of Appendices - None**

**16. Background Papers – None**