

MINUTES OF THE Alexandra Park and Palace Consultative Committee HELD ON Thursday, 17th September, 2026, 6.00 - 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Rosie Latchford, Melanie Gingell, Nick da Costa, Marie Kristensen, Daniela Parry and Eva Bell, John Wilkinson, Hugh Macpherson, John Thompson, John Crompton, Natalie Rusby, Patricia Moody, Nigel Wilmott, Duncan Neill (CC CHAIR), Jason Beazley, Etain Casey

ALSO ATTENDING:

Chris Liasi – Governance Officer, Emma Dagnes – CEO of APP, Joy Johnston - Governance Manager, Louise Johnson - Head of Strategic Planning and Projects, Joe Coggins - Head of Communications. Catherine Solomon - Director of HR and Organisational Development

77. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred to the notice of the filming at meetings and this information was noted.

78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received by Hugh Williams.

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

80. URGENT BUSINESS

There were none.

81. MINUTES

Approved the minutes of the Statutory Advisory Committee held on 18th June 2026 as a correct record.

Noted the minutes of the Consultative Committee held on the 18th June 2026 as a correct record.

82. CHARITABLE TRUST - PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received an update on progress against the Trust's Strategic Plan and Vision to create a sustainable home for all activities. Strong delivery had continued across a range of strategic priorities, with notable achievements in cultural programming, heritage conservation, environmental sustainability, community engagement and organisational resilience.

Entertainment, Culture and Visitor Experience

Members noted that delivery of the commercial and cultural programme had remained strong, with a varied programme of concerts, theatre productions, exhibitions and corporate events. Successful events included Empire of the Sun, the Summer Season concerts, Kaleidoscope Festival and the Red Bull Soapbox Race, all of which attracted significant audiences and positive feedback.

The Theatre programme had continued to perform strongly, including a successful run of *Malory Towers*, which achieved over 90% ticket sales and received excellent reviews. Leisure attractions, including the Ice Rink, Boathouse and Summit Rooftop Experience, had continued to contribute to the visitor offer, although pedalo operations had been temporarily suspended due to low water levels in the lake.

The Committee noted preparations for forthcoming events, including the Fireworks and Drone Festival, festive programming and the relocation of the PDC World Darts Championship to the Great Hall from December 2026.

Climate Change Resilience

The Committee was advised that APP remained committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2041. Progress had focused on energy efficiency measures due to funding constraints, with improvements to heating and lighting controls, monitoring systems and measures to reduce heat loss. These initiatives were expected to deliver significant reductions in energy consumption while improving visitor comfort and supporting future decarbonisation efforts.

Longer-term plans for renewable energy generation and heat decarbonisation remained under development but were dependent on securing external funding.

Heritage Assets

Members noted the completion of a comprehensive drone survey of the Palace, which would support future maintenance planning and capital investment decisions. Progress had continued on the Great Hall Bridge project, while refurbishment works to the Ice Rink mezzanine toilets had been completed.

The Joint Control Room/Security Room project was progressing through construction, and a major electrical shutdown had been successfully undertaken to support maintenance and strengthen business continuity arrangements. The EE infrastructure project was nearing completion, and the Great Hall "Toblerone" replacement project had been completed, including upgrades to emergency lighting and PAVA systems.

Park and Environmental Management

The Committee was informed that the Park team had undertaken preparatory works to support the summer events programme and had responded to challenging drought conditions by prioritising the watering of young trees.

Following a fire in the composting area, additional fire prevention measures had been implemented and the Park Fire Management Plan reviewed. Members noted the significant contribution made by volunteers and community groups across a range of environmental and conservation projects.

Alexandra Park had been awarded Green Flag status for 2026 for the nineteenth time, recognising the quality of the park and green space management.

Archives and Heritage Engagement

The archive digitisation project had continued, with more than 1,000 drawings and plans digitised and securely stored. Progress had been slower than anticipated due to enhanced cyber security requirements. Archive volunteers had continued to support preservation, cataloguing and public access to collections.

Community Engagement and Learning

Members noted ongoing preparations for the 90th anniversary of BBC television broadcasting from Alexandra Palace. Community engagement activities had continued throughout the summer, including programmes for older people, photography workshops, youth engagement initiatives and performances by students from the Performing Arts School.

Volunteer involvement remained strong, with support provided across heritage, environmental and community projects. Development of the Community Herb Garden had also progressed, enhancing opportunities for community participation and biodiversity.

Fundraising and Organisational Resilience

The Committee was advised that fundraising activity had continued to support delivery of the Strategic Plan. The Alexandra Park Wetlands crowdfunding campaign had exceeded its target, raising over £24,000 with support from more than 400 donors and additional match funding.

Restoration and Capital Projects

Progress had continued on the Creative Campus Phase 1 project and the Panorama Room Replacement Project, with planning and listed building consent applications being prepared. Both projects formed key elements of the Strategic Plan to bring underused spaces back into active use.

Partnerships and Skills Development

Members noted that discussions were progressing with education and heritage sector partners to establish heritage skills training at Alexandra Palace. A pilot lime plastering programme was being developed with a local college and heritage skills provider, with the aim of supporting future skills development and contributing to the long-term ambition of establishing Alexandra Palace as a Creative Campus and centre for heritage skills training.

Members noted that APP remained committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2041 and continued to progress a phased carbon reduction programme focused on energy efficiency measures, including improvements to heating and lighting controls, monitoring systems and reductions in heat loss. It was reported that funding constraints remained the principal challenge to delivering larger-scale renewable energy and heat decarbonisation projects.

The Committee also noted the completion of a comprehensive Palace-wide drone survey, which had created the first detailed digital record of the building and would support future maintenance planning, identification of defects, and investment decisions. In addition, Members were advised that volunteer contributions continued to play a significant role across the organisation, supporting archive digitisation, conservation activities, community projects and environmental improvements, and had contributed to Alexandra Park retaining Green Flag status for the nineteenth time.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

83. SUMMER SERIES REPORT

The Committee noted a report summarising resident feedback from the 2025 Summer Series and the operational improvements implemented for the 2026 Summer Series, together with key issues arising from the 2026 events.

The following points were noted:

- **Transport and traffic:** Additional security was deployed to manage taxi pick-ups, and a pilot Uber geo-fencing scheme was introduced around The Avenue and Dukes Avenue during event times. One resident complaint was received regarding the geo-fencing, which was referred to Uber. The approach would be reviewed for future events.
- **The Avenue parking:** Parking suspensions had been introduced in response to previous resident concerns. Further discussion with residents and Haringey Council was identified as necessary to determine whether these should remain, be amended or removed.
- **W3 bus service:** Following feedback from residents and ward councillors, Alexandra Palace worked with TfL to introduce a revised diversion route. This ensured that no stops were entirely unserved during road closures, with only five stops missed across the eastbound and westbound services, excluding Alexandra Palace Way.
- **Alexandra Palace Way closures:** The Committee noted that the road closure remained necessary to facilitate event infrastructure and safe delivery. The

team continued to review whether the duration of the closure could be reduced for future events.

- **Hire bikes:** Alexandra Palace worked with Lime and other operators to manage the increased number of hire bikes around the park and remove obstructions where necessary. Increased usage was particularly noted on the day of the Piccadilly line closure.
- **Plant and machinery noise:** Less intrusive white-noise warning systems were used where possible, with 9 of the 11 items of plant fitted with the alternative systems.
- **West-side entrance:** A second entrance was introduced on the west side of the site to provide more direct access and reduce additional footfall along Dukes Avenue.
- **Sound management:** Across the seven events, recorded sound levels remained below the permitted 75dB limit, with a maximum of 65dB recorded. A total of 46 noise complaints were received, of which 26 included addresses and requested monitoring visits. No breaches of permitted sound levels were identified. Additional post-event teams were also deployed to address noise and anti-social behaviour associated with departing crowds, with positive resident feedback received.
- **Piccadilly line closure:** The closure on the final event day resulted in increased pressure on local transport, Alexandra Palace Station and hire bike provision. The matter was raised with TfL, with discussions continuing around advance notification and mitigation of future closures.
- **Policing and safety:** There was only one occasion when police were called to site during the concert run. A Metropolitan Police presence was maintained on each event day, providing a visible and reassuring presence.
- **Cleaning:** Full post-event cleaning was undertaken across the event site and key surrounding routes, including Alexandra Palace Way, Dukes Avenue and The Avenue. Alexandra Palace continued to offer support to neighbouring businesses where appropriate.
- **Wildflowers:** Minimal impact from event fencing was identified. The wildflower area was scheduled to be reseeded in a different location for 2027 to avoid future conflict with event infrastructure.
- **Communications:** A comprehensive communications campaign had been undertaken, including 8,000 resident leaflets, signage, stakeholder emails, committee updates and social media activity. Further communication methods were being reviewed.
- **Safety Advisory Group:** The post-event debrief with the Safety Advisory Group, attended by representatives from the Metropolitan Police, LBH Licensing, TfL and LBH Highways, was reported as wholly positive. No licensing concerns were raised, and agencies confirmed that they were satisfied with the planning and delivery of the Summer Series. The main action was for Alexandra Palace to investigate options for shortening the Alexandra Palace Way road closure for future events.

Members queried whether the introduction of the additional west-side entrance had reduced footfall along Dukes Avenue. It was explained that the entrance had been introduced in response to resident feedback and provided visitors approaching from the west with a more direct route into the event site, although no quantitative data was available to measure the reduction in footfall. Members also asked about measures to

manage noise and anti-social behaviour as attendees left the events. It was noted that a post-event team had been deployed to remind attendees to be considerate of residents, discourage gatherings outside residential properties, address vehicle idling and intervene where anti-social behaviour was identified, with positive feedback received from residents. Members further queried the impact of the Piccadilly line closure on the final event day. It was reported that the closure had increased pressure on local transport, including Alexandra Palace Station and hire bike usage, but no significant issues were reported. The matter had been raised with TfL, with discussions continuing to improve advance notification and mitigation arrangements for future events.

RESOLVED:

The Committee Noted the report.

84. PANORAMA ROOM REPORT

The Committee received an update on progress with the Panorama Room Replacement Project and the proposed planning and listed building consent applications. Members noted that the existing Panorama Room had reached the end of its serviceable life and that its replacement would improve sustainability, accessibility, structural performance and long-term maintenance, while supporting the continued commercial and charitable operations of Alexandra Palace.

It was noted that StarLive had been appointed as Main Contractor following a competitive tender process, with design work having commenced in early 2026. The proposed project included the removal of the existing structure, conservation and stabilisation works to the historic basements, repairs to the slab and colonnade, and construction of a new single-storey, fit-for-purpose structure with a similar footprint to the existing building. The design had sought to complement the historic setting while minimising fixings to the Palace.

Members noted that Alexandra Palace had entered into a Planning Performance Agreement with Haringey Council, with further pre-application discussions taking place ahead of the planned submission of the planning and listed building consent applications by 30 September 2026.

The project was expected to cost approximately £3.5m and was proposed to be funded through a loan from Haringey Council, with increased revenue from events expected to support loan repayments. Subject to the necessary consents and funding, construction was expected to take approximately six months, with completion anticipated in October 2027 and the new Panorama Room expected to be available for the 2027 World Darts Championship.

The Committee noted the key project risks, including planning consent, funding, construction costs, operational disruption and potential unforeseen works to the historic basements. These risks were being managed through the project-wide risk register and ongoing coordination between the project team, contractor, architect and structural engineer.

Members queried the improvements that the new Panorama Room would provide in terms of sustainability and accessibility, and the importance of the replacement to retaining major events. It was explained that the new structure would improve environmental performance, accessibility and structural performance, while reducing long-term maintenance requirements and providing enhanced facilities. Members noted that the Panorama Room formed an important part of Alexandra Palace's event offer, including major events such as the World Darts Championship, Knitting and Stitching Show and World Snooker Championship. It was reported that key clients had raised concerns regarding the suitability of the existing structure and that its replacement was important to retaining these events and the associated income, which supported Alexandra Palace's wider charitable objectives.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

85. PLANNING, ADVERTISING AND LISTED BUILDING CONSENT REPORT

The Committee received an update on the pipeline of projects at various stages of design which would require statutory approval before progressing to delivery. Members noted that the projects remained subject to securing the necessary funding and planning, listed building or advertisement consents.

The projects highlighted were the Creative Campus and Heritage Hub:

Visitor Experience Improvements (toilets) and West Yard Shutter Upgrade. The Creative Campus project would support the future use of the North East Office Building, improvements to the Theatre and NEOB Courtyards, and enhancements to the Transmitter Hall to better support Haringey Music Service and community groups. The project was also intended to provide improved creative learning, studio and archive facilities.

Members noted that the Visitor Experience Improvements project had been developed in response to feedback regarding existing toilet provision, particularly at the eastern end of the Palace. A feasibility study had identified several options for providing additional permanent facilities to support the East Court, Ice Rink and Great Hall, reducing reliance on temporary toilets during major events.

The West Yard Shutter Upgrade would replace the existing shutter with two smaller shutters, improving operational resilience, security, efficiency and heat retention. The works would require Listed Building Consent. It was noted that the Creative Campus project was being developed with funding support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other potential funders, with delivery anticipated from 2028 subject to funding and permissions. The toilet and West Yard Shutter projects were expected to be delivered during 2027, subject to funding and consent.

Members queried how the Creative Campus and Heritage Hub project would benefit the local community. It was explained that the project would bring the North East

Office Building back into use as a hub for Creative Learning activities, providing dedicated office and studio space, volunteer facilities and a publicly accessible archive studio. Improvements to the Transmitter Hall would also support Haringey Music Service and community groups using the space regularly.

Members also asked how the impact of the proposed projects on the listed building would be managed. It was noted that the relevant Listed Building Consent processes would be followed, with pre-application discussions with Haringey Council taking place where required to help inform and refine the proposals before formal applications were submitted.

Members queried the funding position across the projects. It was explained that funding had not yet been secured for all projects and that delivery remained subject to securing the necessary funding and statutory approvals. The Creative Campus project was being developed through a National Lottery Heritage Fund application and approaches to other funders, while the visitor toilet and West Yard Shutter projects would require funding from other sources, including capital funding.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

86. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

The Committee received feedback from the Consultative Committee Chair on topics and discussions from the previous meeting.

87. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of urgent business.

88. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted the date of the next meeting is 30th November 2026.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date