Alexandra Park & Palace Informal Joint Meeting of the Advisory Committee and Consultative Committee

Date:	30th November 2026
Location:	Creativity Pavilion
Informal Joint CC and SAC:	18:00
SAC:	19:00
CC:	19:15
Report Title:	**Charitable Trust Progress Report**

Purpose

1. To update the SAC & CC on progress of Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust during FY 2026/2027

Recommendations

2. To note the contents of this report.

Executive Summary

3. This report summarises progress to date in FY 2026/27, aligned to the Trust's Vision to **"Create a Sustainable Home for All That We Do."**

4. Updates under each strategic goal highlight the most material delivery milestones, issues, and achievements since the previous report. Vision and Goals can be found at Appendix 1.

Updates against Strategic Goals

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.*

5. Delivery continued across the commercial and cultural programme, with a varied schedule of concerts, theatre programme, corporate events and exhibitions.

6. Great Hall concert highlights during the period included Annie Mac, ANOTR, Boris Brejcha, I Prevail, Public Service Broadcasting, Fat Freddy's Drop and Overmono.

7. Exhibitions returning during the period included the Knit + Stitch Show, Mind Body Soul Experience, OM Yoga and Vegan Life Live.

8. The Theatre programme continued to deliver a broad range of activity, including *Later… with Jools Holland*, the London Squash Classic, *Friday Night Is Music Night*, and concerts from Qurat-ul-Ain Balouch, Best of Both Worlds and the London Bollywood Orchestra. The programme also included the Crouch End Festival Chorus, comedy from Ricky Gervais and Gary Delaney, and a screening of *Wallace & Gromit* accompanied by a live orchestra.

9. The Alexandra Palace Fireworks & Drone Festival was held on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 November 2026, with both nights sold out in advance. Sunday featured a dedicated family fun day, while Saturday included the Bier Festival in the Great Hall. The festival was delivered successfully and received national media coverage, including in The Telegraph the next day. The timing of the SAC CC meeting and report deadlines meant a full debrief could not be included in this report; it will be presented at the next SAC CC meeting.

10. Leisure and ancillary offers continue to play an important role in the year-round visitor experience. The Huskies and Greyhounds seasons have started, with the Huskies continuing to sell out a number of matches. The Ice rink team is also preparing for the amateur production of *Cinderella on Ice*, alongside festive skating throughout December.

11. The East Court will become a key part of the Palace's festive offer, including Santa, while a production of *Sherlock Holmes* will take place in the Theatre as part of the wider festive programme.

12. The Boathouse continues to operate seven days a week, from 10:00 to 16:00 on weekdays and 09:00 to 17:00 at weekends. A targeted local marketing campaign is under way to increase awareness and autumn footfall, and the winter menu is now available.

13. The Summit Rooftop Experience continues to attract local and national visitors. Christmas at the Summit is now available to book, extending the offer through the festive period.

14. Preparations are under way for the winter programme, including Great Hall concerts and festive activities across the venue.

15. The PDC World Darts Championship will move into the Great Hall for the first time in December 2026, increasing overall event capacity and reinforcing Alexandra

Palace's position as the event's long-term home. The Championship will run from Friday 11 December 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027 and comprise 36 sessions, with a test event taking place on 10 December.

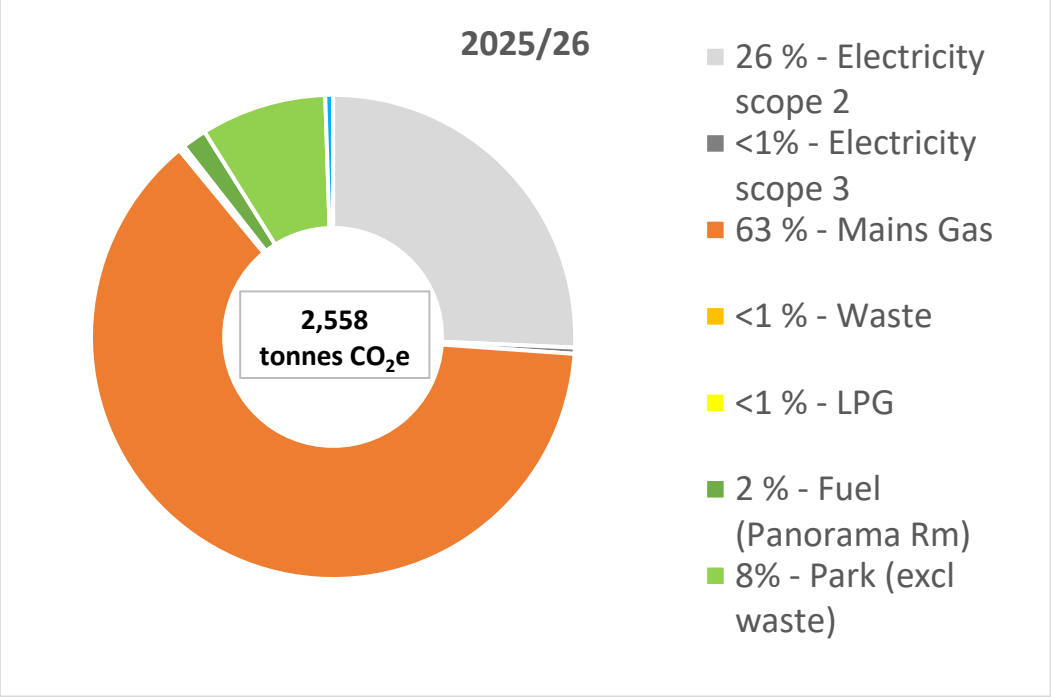
16. The outdoor beer garden, event activations and sections of the South Terrace will be accessible only to event customers to support security and event delivery. Tickets are now sold out.

17. Full details of upcoming events and information for the local community, including the new community information WhatsApp channel, can be found on the Alexandra Palace website.

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.*

18. The Park and Palace's 2025/26 carbon footprint has been calculated at **2,558 tonnes of CO_2**, almost 15% below the 2019/20 baseline of 3,004 tCO_2. Figure 1 provides a breakdown by category. Electricity consumption in some Park buildings has been included for the first time. Electricity consumption in the main Palace building has fallen by 22%, likely reflecting incremental improvements such as replacement heating pumps and ongoing low-energy lighting upgrades. Supply chain emissions (Scope 3) have not been quantified because of measurement difficulties. Current efforts focus on the significant challenges of reducing Scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Figure 1: Carbon Footprint breakdown by category



19. The *carbon intensity ratio* provides a comparison between years as event bookings and visitor numbers change. It is calculated by dividing total carbon emissions by visitor numbers. Visitor numbers increased by 3.6% in 2025/26, while the ratio fell from 2.6 to 2.4 kgCO_2 per visitor.

20. Work to improve sustainability across the Park and Palace continues. Recent highlights include:

    a) Lighting improvements continue, including upgrades to the ice rink controls. The team can now control the lights through an online portal, resolving access difficulties associated with a control panel in a locked electrical cupboard. Approximately 82% of the Palace's 2,430 lighting fixtures are now low-energy LEDs.
    b) Work with a new water supplier is under way to identify leaks and improve water efficiency. Following a site audit of the Park and Palace, the supplier has opened discussions with Thames Water about meter upgrades and leak detection. Meters have been upgraded to automatic dataloggers, and detailed consumption data is being analysed to identify opportunities to save water and reduce bills.
    c) New air curtains have been installed above the Palm Court entrance doors. These create a high-velocity air barrier between the indoor and outdoor environments, reducing warm air loss and demand for heating.
    d) Planning permission is still awaited for the Haringey Community Carbon Fund-supported project to install solar panels on the Boathouse roof. A decision had been expected in early October. The project timetable will be confirmed once permission is secured.

21. A Carbon Reduction Plan for 2026/27 is included as an appendix. This plan sets out the Trust's approach for this year and was approved by the Board on 30th October 2026.

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.*

22. The rolling programme of Great Hall glazing repairs continues, alongside localised brickwork and lime mortar repairs at East Court. Findings from drone surveys and building condition assessments are informing the Fabric Maintenance Plan and priorities for the 2027/28 works programme.

23. Following the grant of listed building consent in April, the Great Hall North Bridge restoration works have been put out to competitive tender. The bridge forms part of the Great Hall's emergency escape infrastructure. Work is expected to begin in February 2027, subject to completion of procurement and confirmation of the delivery programme.

24. Work on the Palace-wide fire strategy continues, informed in part by the Panorama Room design work. A steering group and working group were established in October, with designated leads across Property, Engineering and Operations. The fire risk assessment is guiding priorities for compartmentation, fire doors and escape routes, including opportunities to incorporate improvements into capital projects.

25. The Security team moved into the Joint Control Room in October, bringing day-to-day security and event control into a single operational space. Minor outstanding works and final checks continue. Installation of EE and VM02 mobile coverage infrastructure has also progressed, with completion targeted ahead of the PDC World Darts Championship in December.

26. The Trust has secured Infraspeak, a facilities management system that will bring together asset records, planned maintenance and statutory inspection information. Configuration and cross-departmental piloting are under way ahead of an organisation-wide rollout planned for January 2027. Implementation within Property and Engineering and development of the asbestos records portal continue. Planning is also under way for replacement of the North Yard gate, with works anticipated in 2027 following procurement.

27. The Trust is developing a lime plastering pilot with Capital College and Cliveden Conservation, using the Palace basements as a practical training setting. Learning from the pilot will be recorded to inform the wider Creative and Heritage Skills Campus proposals.

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.*

28. The Park received three Gold Awards in this year's London in Bloom scheme, including two category wins:
    - Large Park of the Year over 25 acres (winner)
    - Heritage Parks and Gardens (winner)
    - Large Conservation Area

29. The judge highlighted the successful balance of heritage, biodiversity, recreation and community use, the contribution of the Friends of the Park and the successful crowdfunder for the Boardwalk in the wetlands area.

30. Prolonged hot, dry weather placed stress on trees, caused clay soil to shrink and contributed to wear in heavily used grassed areas. Several trees died over the summer, although the full impact of the heat may not become apparent for a couple of years. Restoration of the south front grass is under way this autumn, including scarifying the soil and sowing new seed to establish a strong sward for next year.

31. A blocked drain near the Springfield Avenue entrance (gate 8) has been repaired. The pitch fibre pipe had collapsed and was filled with tree roots. The blockage caused water to collect on the footpath last year, creating a slip hazard when it froze.

32. Discussions continue with Thames Water on a major project to repair the trunk mains beneath the Lower Road. Several working compounds will be required along the road from early 2027, with works expected to last up to nine months. The project is intended to resolve persistent leaks that cause muddy and boggy areas and icy conditions in winter.

33. The community-funded boardwalk and new bridges will improve access to the conservation area. Construction is planned before Christmas, subject to planning and weather conditions. Work to restore the conservation pond and create the reed bed will begin in early 2027. This will require tree removal across approximately 0.5 acres (one-third of a football pitch), while boundary trees will be retained to screen the railway line.

34. Ponds in the south-east corner of the Park are monitored using the Habitat Suitability Index for great, crested newts to assess general habitat quality and identify management priorities. Baseline surveys of Newland Pond and the Conservation Pond were completed before Phase 1 of the wetlands project. A follow-up survey in September 2025 established a baseline for the new rewilding ponds, and a further survey was completed in October 2026.

35. All pond scores have increased from their baselines, benefiting from the additional habitat provided by the new rewilding ponds. Reeds and sedges are becoming established around the rewilding pond, providing shelter and food for invertebrates. The Conservation Pond's shading score has declined as surrounding trees have grown and canopy cover has increased. Planned tree removal during restoration is expected to improve this score.

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.*

36. Volunteer cataloguing of 1980s reconstruction documentation and records continues, alongside applications for funding to support conservation, rehousing and further cataloguing.

37. The BBC TV 90 season concluded in November, celebrating 90 years since the launch of the world's first regular public high-definition television service from Alexandra Palace in 1936. The programme of talks, screenings, performances and exhibitions attracted new audiences and strengthened relationships with established and new stakeholders across the broadcasting and television heritage communities.

38. The programme attracted strong interest, with over 50% of events selling out, alongside increased ticket sales and donations compared with previous comparable events. It also generated extensive national, regional, broadcast and specialist media coverage, including features in The Telegraph and coverage on BBC London television and radio, raising awareness of Alexandra Palace's broadcasting heritage.

39. The season culminated on 2 November with the unveiling of a World Origin Site plaque in the East Court by Katie Derham and Emma Dagnes CEO Alexandra Palace. The event was attended by more than 150 guests, including representatives from the BBC, Royal Television Society, Alexandra Palace Television Group, Haringey Council, television historians, archivists, heritage organisations and supporters of Alexandra Palace. The evening also marked the activation of a countdown clock to television's centenary in 2036, celebrating the Palace's global significance in broadcasting history and providing an opportunity to strengthen relationships with key partners and stakeholders.

40. Attendance at BBC events in the East Court and Creativity Pavilion was good overall, with 25% of events sold out, indicating demand for heritage content among older audiences. Press and media coverage reached an estimated 300% more people, while ticket sales and donations increased compared with previous similar events.

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.*

41. Rhythm Stick returned to the Theatre on 21 October 2026 for the first time since 2019. The nightclub is designed by and for members of the disabled community.

42. Twelve Haringey Shed participants are taking part in an associated training programme delivered by Alexandra Palace teams, including Marketing, Events, Theatre, Catering and Creative Learning, alongside DJ skills development with industry professionals. The event plan provided opportunities for participants to undertake a range of roles before joining their friends on the dancefloor. Attendance was forecast at 150–300 people, with the majority expected to identify as disabled.

43. Preparations for the October launch of a new volunteer management system were completed in September 2026. The platform is intended to support recruitment, scheduling, reporting, communication, recognition and social engagement, with improved safeguarding and administrative oversight. It is expected to support expansion and diversification of the volunteer programme over the next three years.

44. In August 2026, Pinhole London undertook a residency on the South Terrace, delivering workshops for young people and SEND learners on historic optical equipment and photographic techniques. The hands-on activities connected heritage, creativity and science. Funded by Arts Council England and evaluated by Breathe Arts Council England and evaluated by Breathe Arts Research, the project built vital evidence for sensory and arts-based approaches to wellbeing. Between 4 – 17 Nov from 9am to 7pm Upside Down London A Camera Obscura at Alexandra Palace will be in the East Court. A natural phenomenon step inside and watch the park, skyline and people passing by appear before you, upside down.

45. The Performing Arts School was rebranded as Palace Performing Arts over the summer, supported by an ongoing social media campaign to raise awareness and support long-term recruitment. Enrolment remains steady, with 29 children registered across the programme.

46. In August 2026, Alexandra Palace partnered with Haringey Council's Youth Service and United Borders to host a mobile outreach bus promoting opportunities for young people across the borough. The initiative engaged visitors throughout the day, providing information, advice and routes into training, employment and wider opportunities.

47. The Biblio-Buzz Children's Book Award 2027 shortlist selection took place on 7 October 2026. The session brought together volunteers, young people, bookselling specialists, educators and authors to select titles and authors for the award, chaired by Prose Prize-winning author Jack Meggitt-Phillips.

48. AP Silver Sounds returned on 28 October 2026. Led by people aged 50+, the community broadcasting and podcasting initiative's latest broadcast offers practical support for people experiencing loss and grief. It combines personal stories, self-help resources and factual documentary content to mark Grief Awareness Week.

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.*

49. We conducted our first recruitment campaigns towards Alexandra Palace's new regular giving programmes this autumn. We ran a mailing and an email campaign asked local residents to consider joining Ally Pally Supporters, from £5/month or Ally Pally Patrons from £600/year. Gifts through both programmes are essential to support the maintenance and restoration of the Park and Palace and our Creative Learning programmes.

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.*

50. The planning and listed building consent application for the Panorama Room Replacement Project has been submitted and validated and is now live on the Planning Portal. The planning application can be found at HGY/2026/2969 and the listed building consent application at HGY/2026/3048. A decision is expected in January 2027. The Palace team will be hosting three public exhibition sessions at the Palace in the Phoenix Bar and Pizzeria Indoor Beer Garden on the following dates:
    - Thursday 12 November: 2pm – 4pm
    - Tuesday 17 November: 2pm – 4pm
    - Tuesday 24 November: 2pm – 4pm

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.*

51. Alongside discussions with prospective skills training partners, the Trust has engaged Neal Shasore, architectural historian, former Head of the London School of Architecture and founder of the School of Building CIC, to provide expert support. A draft report is due at the end of the year, with recommendations for the next 0–3 years to advance plans for a heritage skills centre.

52. Discussions with Haringey Council's Inclusive Economy team are exploring opportunities for joint working through existing employment, training and skills development programmes.

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.*

53. No updates of significance to note since the last reporting period.

Legal Implications

54. The Council's Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no additional comments.

Financial Implications

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

Use of Appendices

- APPs Vision & Goals
- Carbon Reduction Plan for 2026/27

Background Papers

- None.