

ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE
JOINT MEETING OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY AND
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES
30th June 2016

Agenda Item: 8

Report Title: East Wing Restoration Project Report

Report of: Emma Dagnes, Deputy Chief Executive, Alexandra Park and Palace

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Purpose/ Executive Summary:

To update the SAC/CC on the progress on the East Wing Restoration Project.

The enabling works have started with some significant changes already taking place within the spaces.

The Design Team, Alexandra Palace and Wilmott Dixon have been working collaboratively to ensure risk is mitigated as part of the design for fourth stage design which is due to be delivered on the 22nd June.

The newly appointed Director of Fundraising has brought a fresh perspective to the fundraising strategy. A new, focused public campaign will launch at the summer festival in July

Our curatorial team continue to work with local and national museums and archives to build our reputation and develop long term relationships to enable us to borrow items of interest for future exhibitions

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the contents of this report and advise the main Board where appropriate.

2. Enabling Works

- 2.1 Significant work has been carried out as part of the enabling phase which is best articulated through images which are attached to this report under Appendix 1. There has been a higher level of asbestos found than first anticipated particularly in the BBC Studios. Due to the contamination the corridor wall within Studio B, which is partly covered in decorative wallpaper (believed to be Victorian), could not be saved. However working closely with the Conservation Officer and Historic England we were able to design a viewing panel (please see Appendix 2) in Studio A which allows visitors to see the original wallpaper therefore not losing this historical element of the space.

3. Design Stage

- 3.1 During this phase of the project a significant level of collaborative working has taken place between the Design Team, Willmott Dixon and Alexandra Park and Palace (APP). Design packages have had a staggered release due to the complexity of the work. This has given the team the opportunity to review prior to final release therefore mitigating risk. The team is on target to present the fourth stage completed design by 22nd June 2016.

4. Interpretation / Collections / Archive

- 4.1 80th Anniversary of television broadcasting from Alexandra Palace

Work has started on the event programme to mark the 2nd November 1936. As the Studios are closed, the curatorial team have been working on building partnerships with other interested cultural institutions to hold events and utilise online opportunities to celebrate the date but also ensure that the story of television broadcast is intrinsically linked to Alexandra Park and Palace. The schedule of events and online exhibitions will be released later in the year.

- 4.2 Collections and Archive

We continue to make small acquisitions in line with our collections policy purchasing where it is felt that an item is of significant interest. These items are held in archive until such a time that it can be displayed please see appendix 2 for images of recent acquisitions

5. Fundraising

- 5.1 James Atkinson has joined as Director of Fundraising. James comes with an impressive background in fundraising most recently working for Soho Theatre. He has undertaken a review of our fundraising progress to date and as highlighted in previous reports has identified the need to revisit our approach. Though we achieved significant grants from Heritage Lottery Fund and Haringey Council the broader fundraising element has not been as successful. Competition for funding

from charitable trusts is extremely high, with many foundations now favouring applications from outside London.

Therefore we have had to rethink our approach and look towards a public fundraising campaign to kick start giving to the project. The campaign will be launched at the summer festival creating greater awareness of the project and being clearer on ways for people to become involved in the campaign. The first focus will be the theatre, and the audience is primarily people who live near Alexandra Palace. Later in 2016 a second phase of the campaign will focus on the studios.

- 5.2 Teresa Schippel a local artist and member of Friends of the Theatre has kindly donated her time to undertake 16 etchings of the theatre which are now on sale to raise funds for the project. Etchings will be brought to the meeting so that you can see the quality of the work and help us to spread the information on how you can purchase them, if you are interested.

6. Legal Implications

The Council's Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

7. Financial Implications

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

8. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Images Enabling Works
Appendix 2 – Viewing Panel Design