

## **ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE** **JOINT MEETING OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY AND** **CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES** **27<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Report Title:** Chief Executive's Update

**Report of:** Louise Stewart, Chief Executive, Alexandra Park and Palace  
Charitable Trust (APPCT)

**Report Authorised by:** Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, Alexandra Park and  
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### **Purpose:**

This report provides information to the Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committees on planning and policy issues in relation to Alexandra Park and Palace. It also provides additional information on the events programme and a range of activities of the Charitable Trust.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A

### **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 To note the content of the report and advise the Alexandra Park and Palace Board, as appropriate to the SAC/CC remits.

### **2. East Wing Restoration Project**

- 2.1 The Trust Board agreed on 21 March 2017 to proceed with the Main Works of the East Wing Restoration Project. However the scope of the project has changed to keep expenditure within the budget available. The focus of the current project will be on the Theatre, Theatre Foyer, North East Tower and East Court. The Board agreed that the restoration of the former TV Studios would be deferred. The external landscaping works were also deferred.

- 2.2 The team are developing a new timetable for the studios project. The ambition is to deliver an interactive celebration of the proud history of broadcasting and the BBC at Alexandra Palace as well an exploration of cutting edge broadcasting and technology.
- 2.3 The HLF Activity Plan, for learning and participation to engage the public in the project and our history, has not been affected by these decisions.
- 2.4 A Planning and Listed Buildings Tracker is used to monitor the progression of the need to discharge conditions. Regular liaison is undertaken, especially with the Principal Conservation Officer and Historic England.
- 2.5 Recent discussions have taken place with Haringey Council's Economic Development Team in respect of skills and training.
- 2.6 Completion of the East Wing is expected in the summer of 2018.

### **3. West Yard Storage Project**

- 3.1 Planning permission and Listed Building Consent was granted on the 18 January 2017.
- 3.2 Works have been delayed with the contractor experiencing design delays with the main steel frame. Completion is expected to be at the end of 2017.
- 3.3 Discussions with the Planning Authority have progressed with the discharge of conditions including materials to being used. There are no current changes to the Planning permission or Listed Building Consent received.

### **4. Commercial Director's Update**

#### **Events**

- 4.1 Park Premises Licence
  - 4.1.1 The local Licensing Authority (Haringey Council) granted the Alexandra Park Grounds licensing application on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in principle. We are currently awaiting the finalised conditions.
  - 4.1.2 In its decision the Licensing Committee acknowledged the concerns raised by the local community during the hearing and had been satisfied that the conditions imposed were appropriate and proportionate.
  - 4.1.3 A park monitoring framework is being compiled and will be tested at events in July.
- 4.2 Quarter 1 Events
  - 4.2.1 In Q1 we hosted two of our own in-house events, Springfest the German Beer festival inside the Palace, was a great Success. StrEATlife - over May bank holiday weekend was our first free event of the summer. There were no notable negative comments on social media and no noise complaints.

4.2.2 The Country Living exhibition was a new event for the Palace and was a huge success, attended by over 15,000, and received great feedback from both exhibitors and visitors.

#### 4.3 Future Events

4.3.1 The Summer Festival will be taking place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July with some additional activity taking place on Sunday in the Grove (theatre performance) and the south slopes (outdoor cinema). Help supporting this event through the SAC local resident channels would be much appreciated.

4.3.2 On the basis of event safety a decision has been made to close Alexandra Palace Way to all public vehicles for the Summer Festival. Access to the car parks will still be maintained. The exception will be the W3 which will be permitted to use Alexandra Palace throughout the day.

4.3.3 We are in negotiations to install a Zip Wire from the Palace to the Park for activation for the month of August 2017. We are working with experienced operators in this field who will hire space from us and carry all operational costs themselves. If this is successful we will negotiate a longer season for summer 2018.

4.3.4 We are in negotiation to bring The Beast (the world's largest inflatable obstacle course) to the Great Hall for a four day hire over August Bank Holiday. If this is successful we will negotiate a longer hire for August 2018.

#### 4.4 Event forward schedule:

The table attached at Appendix 1 summarises the public events scheduled until the end of Q3 (end of December). All special requirements are discussed in detail at production meetings and at Safety Advisory Group meetings as appropriate. Updates since the last report are highlighted in bold.

### Security

4.5 Following the tragic incident that took place in Manchester, Alexandra Palace, along with all other venues, has reviewed security procedures.

### Ice Rink

4.6 The skating courses for Q1 for children from 3 years up to adults are well subscribed.

4.7 The Ice Rink has both senior and junior British champion dance pairs training here and competing internationally as representatives of Alexandra Palace. Their success has been supported by input from Jayne Torvil and Christopher Dean.

4.8 Alexandra Palace Ice Rink is seeking ways to accommodate additional business from Lee Valley and Queensway ice rinks over the summer as both rinks are temporarily closing for repairs. This includes both skating coaches and ice hockey teams.

## **5. Park update**

- 5.1 Park Maintenance is going well, low rainfall and cool temperatures during Spring have helped the Park dry out. Horticultural Students from Capel Manor College have been assisting with work on the bedding displays.
- 5.2 Consultants have been engaged to undertake a desk review to investigate the issues with springs and wet patches. Some testing has been carried out to ascertain the source of the water. One area, on the old race course, has been fenced off to keep people and dogs out in order to prevent contamination of the samples.
- 5.3 The tree inspection and work programme continues. London plane trees are under threat from *Massaria disease of plane*. This relatively new issue causes large branches to fall within a short timescale following infection. The plane trees in the Park are now inspected more frequently and there will be more frequent branch removals in response to protect Park users and property. There were no trees lost during storm Doris in February. Although it may appear that a lot of tree cutting and felling takes place where it is safe and there is space to do so, dead trees are left standing for their wildlife value.
- 5.4 The work with Park tenants continues. Scheduled lease renewals and rent reviews have been taking place, Tenant's health and safety management monitored and issues such as safeguarding reviewed.
- 5.5 The Friends of the Park have been assisting with visitor counting surveys over the past few months. The number collected helps fine-tune the estimates we make of visitor numbers. The estimates for the first quarter of 2017 show the visitor numbers were up by 12%.

## **6. Learning and Participation**

### **6.1 School Workshops**

With the improvement in weather Spring and Summer are the busiest in terms of workshops for schools. Between April and the end of June the Palace welcomed 387 pupils from 7 schools across the borough with a further 8 visits booked before the end of the Summer term. These visits include 3 Reception classes from Rhodes Avenue and each class from St Paul's and All Hallows using the Park to practice basic map reading skills.

Work is underway planning for scaling up the delivery of the learning programme from September in line with the target of 5,000 pupils per year by 2019.

### **6.2 Big Schools Day**

On 20<sup>th</sup> June the Learning & Participation team will take over the Palace for the first Big Schools Day for 1,060 pupils (Year 5,6 & 7) from 19 schools across the borough. Through this event we have engaged with 9 new schools including Ferry Lane, Hornsey School for Girls and Mulberry Primary School. The day will showcase different careers within television and is being delivered in partnership with BAFTA Kids and Microsoft.

### 6.3 Easter Activities

The Learning and Participation team worked with a local artist to deliver 4 days of creative heritage workshops in the Palm Court during the Easter holidays. These included making a giant collage using images of the Palm Court architecture and making clay animals using images of monkeys, parrots and bears from the archive as inspiration.

Over the 4 days we had 147 adults and 211 children attending. The activity was hugely successful with overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents and children. Parents commented on how beautiful and peaceful the space was, many experiencing Palm Court for the first time.

### 6.4 Haringey Weekend of Play

As part of the borough wide Weekend of Play (28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April) Alexandra Palace ran drop-in orienteering inspired by Victorian activities in the Park and Palace. Using the Park Information Centre as the base families dropped in before using map reading skills to find markers hidden around the Grove. Throughout the day over 60 people took part in the activities with positive feedback from all who participated.

### 6.5 Dementia Friendly Activities

L&P has been developing relationships with local day care centres and dementia friendly groups through a number of different activities such as archive collage making sessions, reminiscence sessions and sensory walks in the Park. We aim to nurture these relationships through more regular activities and longer term projects and events as we move towards the opening of the East Wing in 2018.

- Dementia Café – Hornsey Housing Trust

10 people with dementia and their carers participated in a collage making session using images from the Palace's archive. Drawings and photos of the Palace throughout history took participants on a journey, many of them reminiscing of times spent at the Palace, particular hairstyles and dresses they used to wear and memorable events like the Queen's coronation. Participants were encouraged to make their own version of the Palace resulting in surreal and magical representations of Ally Pally.

- Spring Sensory Walk

In celebration of Dementia Awareness Week (15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May), the L&P team hosted three Spring Sensory Strolls in the Park exploring the heritage of both the Park and Palace and Park and engaging the group on a sensory level. 28 people with dementia and their carers attended throughout the week from a number of different care centres.

### 6.6 Corporate Volunteering

To mark XL Caitlin (Global Insurance Company) Global Day of giving 26 people from their London office volunteered their time to give back to the local community. Activities included tours of the Park (delivered by the Friends of the Park), litter picking and tours of the Victorian Theatre. The feedback on the day from the organiser and

people taking part was extremely positive, for many of them this was their first visit to the Park and Palace.

#### 6.7 National Volunteer Week

To thank the Palace's team of volunteers the Learning & Participation team ran an event for National Volunteer Week on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. 15 active volunteers attended for a briefing about changes to the volunteering programme and to feed their ideas into the ongoing plan.

#### 6.8 Placements

To support the work of the Learning & Participation department the team have recruited a BA Events Management Student from Leeds Beckett and an MA Museum Studies student from UCL.

### 7. Archive and Interpretation

The Team have been promoting the work of the team and developing new relationships, including:

- Presentation to Hornsey Historical Society (as part of L&P engagement).
- Liaison with Central St Martins Culture Curation & Criticism students on live project with L&P
- Talk on digitisation to Friends of the Park.
- Liaison with University of Lincoln on their Hidden Heritage project – initial scoping for 3D scanning of stage machinery in the Theatre.
- Contributing to the Summer Festival with historic content theming.
- Meeting with FAPT members and talk on digitisation

### 8. New Year's Eve Road Closure

- 8.1 A report on the potential closure of Alexandra Palace Way on New Year's Eve will be presented at the Trust Board meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- 8.2 Growing numbers of people are attending the Park each year to view the fireworks over London. Despite there being no organised activities at the Palace for the evening it is an increasingly popular location to spend the evening. The cost of managing the unplanned footfall and traffic has also increased.
- 8.3 The key issues are;
- traffic and road congestion. The car parks and Alexandra Palace Way become blocked by vehicles, and there is increasingly dangerous parking on the verges.
  - Anti-social behaviour in the Park including abuse of security staff, and public disturbance, which last year caused a member of the public a serious injury
  - fireworks and lanterns being set off, often in close proximity to the building and members of the public
  - the increasing costs of managing the site on the evening
  - consumption of alcohol brought onto the premises
  - reputational risk to the Trust through failure to control this 'informal event'

- 8.4 The intention is not to prevent local people accessing and enjoying the venue, on foot. The vast majority of issues are caused by car borne visitors.
- 8.5 Once the Board has considered the evidence and options for managing the site on New Year's Eve the advice of the SAC is likely to be sought at the October SAC meeting.

## **9. Legal Implications**

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

## **10. Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Forthcoming events schedule

# APPENDIX 1 – Forthcoming events

Event	Event Type	Date (tenancy)	Date (event open)	Special requirements
Fat Freddy's Drop	Concert	02.06.17-03.06.17	03.06.17	
ABTT Theatre Show	Exhibition	04.06.17-08.06.17	07.06.17-08.06.17	
DRL (Drone) – London	Sport	10.06.17-14.06.17	12.06.17-13.06.17	Drone Racing (Inside the Palace)
Haringey Boxing	Sport	15.05.17-18.05.17	15.05.17-18.05.17	
Street Food & Craft Beer Festival (StrEATlife)	Park	16.06.17-19.06.17	17.06.17-18.06.17	Music on the Beach/Catering Units along the South Terrace and Beach
<b>International Yoga Day</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>17.06.17-18.06.17</b>	<b>18.06.17</b>	<b>Situated in the Lower Field, free for guests to attend – estimated 3000 guests over the day</b>
The Maccabees	Concert	28.06.17-02.07.17	29.06.17-1.07.17	
<b>Karting on Ice</b>	<b>Ice Rink</b>	<b>01.07.17</b>	<b>01.07.17</b>	<b>Small group of 30 visitors</b>
<b>Junior Hockey Camp</b>	<b>Ice Rink</b>	<b>02.07.17</b>	<b>02.07.17</b>	<b>Small group of 50 people</b>
Red Bull	Live	06.07.17-10.07.17	09.07.17	The public access road shall be closed between the hours of 12:00 hours (midday) on Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July to 05:00 hours on Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Figure Skating Camp</b>	<b>Ice Rink</b>	<b>16.07.17</b>	<b>16.07.17</b>	<b>Small group of 50 people</b>
Street Food Summer Festival (StrEATlife)	Park	21.07.17-23.07.17	22-23.07.17	Music on the Beach and in the Park, additional activities taking place inside and outside the venue along with street food vendors in the Park
<b>Karting on Ice</b>	<b>Ice Rink</b>	<b>05.08.17</b>	<b>05.08.17</b>	<b>Small group of 30 visitors</b>
Street Food Summer Festival (StrEATlife)	Park	18.08.17-20.08.17	19-20.08.17	Music on the Beach and in the Park, additional activities taking place inside and outside the venue along with street food vendors in the Park
<b>Junior Hockey Camp</b>	<b>Ice Rink</b>	<b>19.08.17</b>	<b>19.08.17</b>	<b>Small group of 50 people</b>
<b>Junior Hockey Camp</b>	<b>Ice Rink</b>	<b>26.08.17</b>	<b>26.08.17</b>	<b>Small group of 50 people</b>
<b>Junior Jockey Camp</b>	<b>Ice Rink</b>	<b>27.08.17</b>	<b>27.08.17</b>	<b>Small group of 50 people</b>
<b>Foodies Festival</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>23.08.17-30.08.17</b>	<b>26.08.17-28.08.17</b>	<b>Situated in the Lower Field, acoustics back ground music, chef demonstrations.</b>
Interpol	Concert	01.09.17	01.09.17	
Antiques	Exhibition	02.09.17-03.09.17	03.09.17	
Luna Cinema	Outdoor South Slope	15.09.17	15.09.17	



Event	Event Type	Date (tenancy)	Date (event open)	Special requirements
Asiana Wedding Show	Exhibition	08.09.17-10.09.17	09.09.17-10.09.17	Due to West Hall event guest will access the Great Hall via the Rose Window throughout both event open days
Progress Wrestling	Sport	10.10.17	10.10.17	
Crafting At Ally Pally	Exhibition	14.09.17-17.09.17	16.09.17-17.09.17	
Luna Cinema	Outdoor South Slope	16.09.17	16.09.17	
Phoenix	Concert	30.09.17	30.09.17	
Knitting & Stitching Show	Exhibition	08.10.17-15.10.17	11.10.17-15.10.17	
Mind, Body, Soul & Yoga Show	Exhibition	18.10.17-22.10.17	20.10.17-22.10.17	
Crystal Fighters	Concert	28.10.17	28.10.17	
Fireworks	Live Event	02.10.17-05.10.17	04.11.17-05.11.17	
Don Broco	Concert	11.11.17	11.11.17	
War on Drugs	Concert	14.11.17	14.11.17	
Antiques	Exhibition	18.11.17-19.11.17	19.11.17	
Enter Shkari	Concert	25.11.17	25.11.17	
Royal Blood	Concert	20.11.17	20.11.17	
Woodcraft Folk Junior Hockey Camp	Ice Rink	25.11.17	25.11.17	Estimated 700 visitors
Parvo Stelar	Concert	01.12.17-02.12.17	02.12.17	
Christmas Panto	Ice Rink	04.12.17-11.12.17	04.12.17-11.12.17	12 sessions in total – Moved dates so not to clash with Darts Visitors – 750 visitors per session
Darts	Sports	09.12.17-04.01.18	14.12.17-02.01.18	22 sessions in total – excluding Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Eve