

ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE **JOINT MEETING OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY AND** **CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES** **23rd January 2018**

Report Title: Chief Executive's Update

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

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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/feedback to the Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust Board, as appropriate to the SAC/CC remits.

2. Governance Review

- 2.1 The Governance Review is now complete and the SAC and CC have been provided with separate reports, in order for the committees to provide feedback and advice as appropriate on the findings and the proposed way forward. Feedback is sought prior to any decisions about changes to governance being made by the Trust. Separate

meetings will take place on 23rd January, prior to and following the joint meeting of the committees.

3. East Wing Restoration Project

- 3.1 Works are progressing with the delivery of the Project to the East Court, Theatre, Theatre Foyer and North East Tower. The completion date remains as summer 2018.
- 3.2 The Interpretation Team are developing an Interpretation Strategy after completing the Collections Strategy. This will establish a framework and methods for encouraging public engagement and connection with our heritage; the archive, objects, stories and the property itself. The development of the strategy will assist with funding applications to trusts and foundations. The Creative Learning Team continue to deliver the extensive programme of activities funded by HLF. Further details are below in item 7.
- 3.3 The Trust continues to work with the Principal Conservation Officer and Historic England, keeping them up to date on progress, and informing them of any discoveries made on site (i.e. hidden features). The Principal Conservation Officer has recently visited the Palace to inspect the progress of works. Working with the Contractor, the Trust provides a monthly update to the Economic Development Team at Haringey Council on employment and training figures, particularly with regards to the number of local people on site.
- 3.4 Listed Building consent conditions continue to be discharged as the project progresses.
- 3.5 Listed Building Consent for the lighting of the mast was granted in October with a condition of it being lit no more than 120 times per calendar year. The Trust keeps a record of dates the mast is lit.

3.6 Learning and Participation (Creative Learning Team) Update

3.6.1 Learning Zone Thinking Day

The renamed Creative Learning Team (previously Learning and Participation) have been working with the architects FCBS on the plans for the Learning Zone in the East Court. The team held a session with the architects and potential users for the Learning Zone, including representatives from the Alzheimer's Society, Primary and Secondary school teachers, learning practitioners, Haringey Shed, and Disabled Go, amongst others. It was really useful for representatives from FCBS to hear from users to help shape the design.

The team have also been visiting other sites such as the Learning Zones at Samsung, Dulwich Picture Gallery, Horniman, and the V&A.

3.6.2 Future Planning

- a. The department is working through the Arts Council Evaluation for Quality Learning For All training, Quality Principals and Self Evaluation Toolkit to be completed in January 2018.
- b. L&P are currently exploring best practice evaluation techniques – for example Sara Assadulla Associate at InsightShare who has developed a participatory method for engagement using participatory video and storytelling for monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- c. Through workshops exploring vision and values for the department it has been agreed that we rename the team, the Creative Learning team..
- d. Staff have continued to develop networks within the cultural learning sector including attending;
 - Museums as Spaces for Wellbeing - 2 Day Training London Region, Geffrye Museum
 - The Creative Role of Research - Launch event, King's College
 - Influencing and advocacy training, Museum of London
 - Exploring Outreach Workshop with flourishing lives coalition, Claremont Project.
- e. The team have visited a number of organisations to explore best practice; particularly South Bank L&P team, London Transport Museum, RADA outreach, National Portrait Gallery, The Guardian Learn Discovery Learning and the V&A.
- f. The team have staff representation on the following professional forums and steering groups, including Haringey Music Services, Haringey Volunteer Forum, Museums of North London, Haringey Health and Wellbeing Forum, Creative Barking and Dagenham Steering Group and Barking and Dagenham Cultural Partnership, Barking and Dagenham Cultural Education Partnership (CEP) and London Heritage Volunteers Managers Network.

3.6.3 Projects, Activities and Events

- a. See appendix 3 for a comprehensive lists of Learning activities and events from Oct 3rd 2017
- b. Schools Programme Highlight

The team ran our first Creative Careers Session on the 21st November with a Fake News Conference with Jonathan Freedland (Guardian), Mark Frankel (BBC) and James Rodgers (City University). Feedback from the schools attending was really positive and there is definitely an appetite for these types of events moving forward. 110 pupils attending from 4 schools (3 Haringey & 1 Barnet)

c. Wellbeing Programme Highlights

- The team are working with Abigail Hirsch (designer for the Sensory Backpacks at the V&A) to develop a sensory suitcase to take into care homes. Launch is planned for February 2018. This will be a volunteer led activity.
- In October, Wave (We are All Valued Equally) Café pop up launched on the 16th of November. 100 people attended. This will develop into a monthly pop up in the B&K until East Court opens.

3.6.4 Volunteer Programme

- a. A new steering group led by volunteers has been set up to draft and review the volunteering policies and procedures at APPCT.
- b. The Volunteer Coordinator is developing a new partnership with Harington SEN college unit to develop an Assisted Volunteer programme.
- c. Four training sessions have been offered to support our ongoing volunteering programme. These were: customer service, tour guiding in challenging spaces and two collections research training. Total number of volunteers trained so far is 28..

3.7 BBC Studios

- 3.7.1 The Board have agreed in principle an outline high level plan for the next steps in relation to the BBC Studios, attached at Appendix 1. However the Board agreed that due to the limited capacity of the team and lack of confirmed resource to progress the BBC Studios the plan could not commence or be developed further until the current East Wing and West Yard capital projects were completed. The workshop/s mentioned at the last SAC/CC are included in that plan, but there is no detail underneath that at present.
- 3.7.2 However there is an element of HLF funding within the re-scoped East Wing project that is for the development of the BBC Story and its interpretation. The team are exploring different interpretation techniques such as virtual and augmented reality, working with software partners to test the suitability and capability of the different technologies.

4. West Yard Storage Project

- 4.1 The North West Tower is nearly complete. Many of the windows have been restored and will be fully working again.
- 4.2 The main storage area is slightly behind programme but was watertight by Christmas and aims to be ready for use early in the New Year.

- 4.3 The project has experienced further delays as a result of a number of issues. The Project is expected to be complete in March 2018.
- 4.4 Consent was granted in December 2017 to our Contractor to relocate the storm water drainage attenuation tank from beneath the West Yard to the North Yard. The matter was considered at the SAC and CC meeting in October 2017.

5. Events

5.1 Park Licence

- 5.1.1 The licence conditions that covering external activity in Alexandra Park are currently with Haringey Licensing Department. The Trust expects this to be finalised in January by the Licensing Authority, Haringey Council.
- 5.1.2 Since the external event licence was granted around 130,000 people have attended events within Alexandra Park. Over this time there have been 7 recorded noise complaints from residents, four of these were from the Red Bull Soap Box Derby in July, two from the Alexandra Palace Summer Festival and one from the Fireworks Festival. No action was deemed to be necessary as a result of these complaints.

5.2 Q3 Events

- 5.2.1 In October we held two major exhibitions Knitting & Stitching and Mind, body & Soul attracting over 55,000 visitors
- 5.2.2 Alexandra Palace annual Fireworks Festival took place on 3rd & 4th November and was attended by over 90,000 people. Of those surveyed 83.4% would recommend the event to a friend and 89% rated the display either excellent or good. In addition more than 100,000 music fans enjoyed 12 concerts including performances from Liam Gallagher and Royal Blood plus the annual PDC darts tournament broadcast live on Sky Sports.

5.3 Future Events

- 5.3.1 Although reported at a previous SAC/CC meeting, the organisation is not pursuing zip wire proposals at this time.
- 5.3.2 An Arts Festival is being planned to take place on 21st July 2018. This event will be known as Kaleidoscope. The event will take place across the south slopes and within the venue. A letter has been sent to local residents giving a basic summary of the event and more information will be available nearer the time. The event is due to launch to the public on 18th January, with tickets on sale on 6th February.
- 5.3.3 The table attached at Appendix 1 summarises the public events scheduled until the end of Q4 (end of March 2018). 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 type.

5.4 New Year's Eve Road Closure

5.4.1 In light of anti-social behaviour and the blocking of Alexandra Palace Way previously on New Year's a road closure was put in place this year from 21.00-02.00. This eradicated the congestion caused by vehicles stopping and parking. Antisocial behaviour was down on previous years but there were some incidents of people letting off fireworks across the site. Police support was available to assist the road closure. There were no reported issues noted at the road closure points at either end of AP Way. No complaints were received about any parking issues in neighbouring streets.

5.4.2 Using the data logger on the Avenue gate as a proxy measure of visitor numbers on New Year's Eve it is estimated that there was a 15% increase in visitors on 2016 and a 92% increase since the data logger was installed in 2013.

6. **Park Update**

- 6.1 Go Ape have opened their second Tree Top Adventure Course. Reinstatement of the ground should take place in the early spring, if weather permits.
- 6.2 The very wet and stormy weather has been challenging, worsening the existing problem caused by poor drainage. More swales have been created in an attempt to direct the water and reduce the inconvenience it causes, but substantial investment is required to provide long-term solutions.
- 6.3 Park visitor numbers have increased. Using a set of assumptions to estimate visitor numbers from the data collected by the automatic loggers the number of Park visitors in 2017 was 3.33 million, this is an increase from 2.88 million in 2016.
- 6.4 Improvements have been made in the children's play area. The rubber surfacing has been repaired and replaced, spare parts for the climbing frames have been installed and the rear of the embankment has been soiled, seeded and fenced to combat erosion problems.
- 6.5 Two substantial repairs have been made on Alexandra Palace Way. At the east end of the road, a manhole cover was displaced in late October. The frame, cover and brickwork had to be replaced. Adjacent to the Palace a 25 square metre area was excavated, pipework reconnected and the speed hump repaired. Some of the excavated macadam was recycled on site to improve ground conditions in the depot.
- 6.6 The Park Manager and the Friends of Alexandra Park have been working on a mini-action plan for the Butterfly Meadow on the south slope. This area is a sheltered, acidic open area, populated with yellow-ants and interesting meadow plants. Volunteers from the Friends Group have been digging out the roots of the invading brambles and removing undesirable tree saplings. Students from Capel Manor College may be undertaking tree removal as part of their training (at no cost to the Trust) in January-February 2018.

- 6.7 Four new commemorative benches have been secured, continuing the gradual improvement of the quality of the stock of Park benches around site.

7. Drone Policy

- 7.1 Due to the increasing number of drones being flown in the Park it was necessary for reasons of safety and privacy to set out a Drone Policy.
- 7.2 The Drone Policy was circulated to members of the SAC/CC on 8th December and is attached at Appendix 2. The policy is also published on the Alexandra Palace website.

9. Archive and Interpretation

- 9.1 The Collections Strategy was approved by the Trust Board on 2nd November. The strategy sets out the long-term objectives and bases for collections management, access arrangements and public accountability.

10. Legal Implications

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

11. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – BBC Studios Forward Plan
Appendix 2 – Events Schedule (Q4)
Appendix 3 – Drone Policy