

Grenfell Tower site update: summary of community online meetings

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At our community online meetings on 8 December 2021 and 11 January 2022, we updated on the future of Grenfell Tower, and tower site maintenance and safety works. We gave an update on further soil sampling at two locations, the relocation of the local electricity substation in Grenfell Tower, and local opportunities available from the Grenfell Tower site principal contractor, DUK. We also gave a reminder about the health and wellbeing services available to the community.

The meeting panel

- Chair – Suzanne Kochanowski: a civil servant in the community engagement team at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
- Rachel Appiah, a civil servant in the community engagement team at DLUHC
- Victoria Exell-Pitman, a civil servant in the community engagement team at DLUHC
- Matt Hogan, a civil servant in the site management team at DLUHC
- Steve Jones, from DUK, the principal contractor for the Grenfell Tower site

You can watch the meetings by clicking here:

- [7 December 2021](#)
- [22 January 2022](#)

The future of the tower

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP, has written to bereaved families, survivors and residents to say that he will not be taking a decision about the future of Grenfell Tower at this time.

Out of respect to those who have not yet had their say about the future of the tower, more time will be given for conversations in the new year.

The Secretary of State will write again shortly with further details about what you can expect from these conversations, including when and how they will take place, setting out the opportunities you will have to talk to the secretary of state and officials in the coming months.

He acknowledges that any conversation about Grenfell Tower can be difficult, and is grateful to those he has been able to meet so far.

Read about this in the December [letter](#), also available in translation.

Safety works

As part of the ongoing works to keep the tower stable, additional 'props' (metal supports) are being installed in the basement of the tower. This will involve adjusting scaffolding on the side facing Bramley House and Latimer Road Station, putting in a small lift at basement level to take out heavy equipment such as boilers, and removing small sections of the tower wrapping. The work is expected to end in March and will be done as sensitively and considerately as possible.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the site management team at GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or call [0303 444 0011](tel:03034440011).

A system is in place to monitor the tower 24 hours a day, and there are also daily inspections and regular floor-by-floor checks by structural engineering specialists. People can continue to live, work and go to school nearby. You can read more about the ongoing safety works in our [July 2020 community update and letter](#).

Tower banner illumination

The banner at the top of the tower is illuminated each evening. Currently, this is between 3.30pm and 11pm, and timings are adjusted every two weeks according to the levels of daylight. As in previous years, the tower was fully illuminated in green from 4pm to 11pm on 14 December. This date marked four and a half years since the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Further soil sampling

Following the findings of the stage 2 Grenfell environmental checks, soil samples have been collected for testing at Treadgold House and Avondale Park to determine the next steps. This work is being done by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) and independent specialist environmental contractors, AECOM. RBKC is expected to write to residents with the results in February. Read more about the stage 2 findings and further sampling in our [July 2021 community update](#).

Relocating the electricity substation

The electricity substation on the ground floor of Grenfell Tower is being moved to a new location near Kensington Leisure Centre and this should be complete by March 2022. The work is being managed by RBKC and UK Power Networks. Read more about the substation move in our [April 2021 community update](#).

The principal contractor and social value

The principal contractor of the Grenfell Tower site, DUK, is responsible for keeping the tower safe and secure by monitoring the tower and the site 24 hours a day, carrying out the safety works and ongoing maintenance work. DUK has not been appointed to take down the tower.

Bringing social value to a community is an important part of the role of a contractor in the public sector. It means making long-term, sustainable improvements that benefit you, your family, your community and your area. DUK is working with local and national organisations to provide training and apprenticeship opportunities and is also providing support to local businesses.

DUK and community groups are discussing which opportunities are prioritised so that as much of the community as possible can benefit.

If you would like to get involved in shaping social value opportunities, talk to us directly, share any concerns or ask us questions, please email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or phone us on [0303 444 0011](tel:03034440011).

Health and wellbeing

The local NHS service can offer members of the community affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy physical and mental health support, including for children and young people. Visit the NHS Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service at grenfellwellbeing.cnwl.nhs.uk for information, or, if you are feeling anxious or stressed, call them on [020 8637 6279](tel:02086376279) (from 8am to 8pm) or on their urgent advice line on [0800 0234 650](tel:08000234650) (24 hours a day).

Our next community online meeting is on Tuesday 8 March, 6pm to 7pm.

- [Click here to join the meeting](#) (you can join via Microsoft Teams using your web browser even if you do not have Teams installed on your device)
- Or dial in on [020 3795 5763](tel:02037955763) and enter **conference ID: 457 373 769#**

Please email us if you would like us to send the link for the meeting to you directly, or if you have a specific question that you would like us to answer in that meeting.

How to get in touch

We are available for conversations with you or your family and to provide any further information that you might want.

- email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk
- phone [0303 444 0011](tel:03034440011)

The digital signs around the site contain the latest information about the tower. You can also read all Grenfell Tower community updates and letters online at: www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (February 2022)