



# Grenfell Tower site update: summary and Q&A from 8 December online event

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At our online event on 8 December 2020, we updated attendees on the safety works taking place at the site. We also explained the principal contractor procurement currently underway, and how the community can be involved in the process. We shared details of how the community can have their say about the Tower and the future memorial, as well as giving a reminder about the health and wellbeing services available. Event attendees were able to post questions to our panel from the Grenfell site management and programme team, and a member of the local NHS health team.

- We have summarised the questions we received during the event below
- You can also watch a [video of the event here](#)
- Our next events will take place on 1 and 2 February – please see the details for these at the end of this document

### Planned safety works

We are fitting additional ‘props’ (aluminium supports) in the Tower so that we can ensure the building’s continued stability. To enable the installation of these props, we have been removing heavy, damaged items and asbestos from individual flats.

- Find out more about the planned safety works in our [July 2020 community update and letter](#) and more about asbestos removal in our [September online event write-up](#).

### The principal contractor for the Grenfell Tower site

The principal contractor is responsible for carrying out the safety and day-to-day maintenance works on the Grenfell Tower site. Our existing contract with the on-site contractor will expire in June 2021 and we need to re-procure the contract due to government rules and guidance on spending public money. This is a standard process and is part of our role in keeping the site safe.

We have begun inviting bids from potential companies for the principal contractor role. An important part of that procurement is ‘social value’ – this means that the companies contracted by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) agree to bring benefits to the community. As part of that process, we are keen to work with the community and a group has been involved in the procurement process so far.

- **If you would like to join this group, please contact us using the details at the end of this document.**
- Find out more about the how we are approaching this in our [December update](#).

## Have your say about the Tower and the future memorial

Since September, Kaizen, an independent community engagement specialist, has been helping us to hear the thoughts of bereaved families, former residents, local residents and the North Kensington community about the Tower. It has also been working for the independent [Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission](#) to hear your ideas about how to remember those who lost their lives in the Grenfell tragedy. Kaizen will be holding these conversations **until May 2021**.

**You can share your views with Kaizen in whichever way suits you best, including in different languages.**

**Kaizen do not have your phone numbers or email addresses, so please contact them directly:**

- Email your views to: [grenfellmemorial@kaizen.org.uk](mailto:grenfellmemorial@kaizen.org.uk)
- Call: **020 7082 5505** or text **07984 434855** to arrange a phone conversation.
- Write to: Kaizen, 22a Cliff Villas, London NW1 9AT.

Kaizen can speak to you by phone, over video link and in person, if and when Covid-19 social distancing guidance allows. Others can attend with you, if you would like.

You can also share your views by completing the online survey at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/TheGrenfellMemorial](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TheGrenfellMemorial)

## Health and wellbeing

- If you're feeling anxious or stressed, support is available from the Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service. Contact the Urgent Advice Line on **0800 0234 650** or visit [grenfellwellbeing.com](http://grenfellwellbeing.com) for information.

## The event panel

- Matt Hogan: Grenfell Tower site manager working for MHCLG. Matt and his team manage the day-to-day coordination of activities on site and the safety works, to reduce the disruption to local residents that can be caused by this work.
- Sarah Hopping: a civil servant working in the community engagement team at MHCLG.
- Laura Williams: a civil servant in the community engagement and communications team at MHCLG.

## Questions and answers

Thank you very much to all of you who submitted questions to the panel. This is a summary of the questions and answers.

**Q Why are you changing the on-site contractors? Has the current one not done the job properly?**

**A:** No. That is not the reason why we are appointing a new on-site contractor for Grenfell Tower. Our existing contract with the contractor is time-limited and we need to re-procure that contract due to government rules and guidance on spending public money. This is a standard process that includes thorough due diligence, to ensure no previous relationship to the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower.

**Q: What are the arrangements in place for regulating and inspecting the asbestos removal?**

**A:** Asbestos is being removed from the Tower and site by a licensed specialist removal contractor regulated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and carried out in a sealed enclosure. All material that's removed is bagged and appropriately transported so that any potential contamination can't be spread. We are also undertaking independent air testing alongside [the monitoring carried out by Public Health England](#) (PHE) since the fire. Since the safety works started in August 2020, 4,000 samples have

been examined by accredited laboratories and are within the control limit as set out by the HSE. This sampling will continue throughout the works as required.

**Q: Will there be an asbestos monitor on the site of Kensington Aldridge Academy (KAA) next door to the Tower?**

**A:** PHE is in touch with KAA regarding asbestos monitoring on the school site. PHE conducts ongoing monitoring for asbestos fibres in a variety of locations, including areas outside the Tower site. Monitoring locations are rotated so that PHE can understand the potential exposure across the local environment, and the results of the monitoring are published on GOV.UK.

**Q: Why have bags of debris been left on the road?**

**A:** We believe this question relates to an incident in 2019, where a bag of debris was identified on a local road. MHCLG quickly confirmed that this was not connected with any work on the Grenfell site but was the property of a contractor working on the Lancaster West estate. The bag was removed by that contractor as soon as possible. All bags of material from the Tower site are removed in secure containers and transported to an off-site facility.

**Q Regarding health checks, are you going to check breathing?**

**A:** There's a community respiratory service from Imperial College, London, which offers checks to bereaved, survivors and the wider community to understand more about lung function. It is available through the dedicated service ([DedicatedServiceEnquiries@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:DedicatedServiceEnquiries@rbkc.gov.uk)) or through your GP.

**Q How can I give my views on the memorial and Tower to Kaizen – will they contact me?**

**A:** Kaizen doesn't have residents' contact details, so to share your thoughts, feelings and concerns with them, please:

- Email your views to: [grenfellmemorial@kaizen.org.uk](mailto:grenfellmemorial@kaizen.org.uk)
- Call **020 7082 5505** or text **07984 434855** to arrange a phone conversation.
- Write to: Kaizen, 22a Cliff Villas, London NW1 9AT.
- Complete the online survey at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/TheGrenfellMemorial](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TheGrenfellMemorial)

**Q How did you publicise this event as some people say they didn't know about it?**

**A:** Details of this event were shared through a range of local groups and organisations, social media and the digital signs around the site, as well as the council's weekly email bulletins. We are always keen to hear of ways we can contact as many people as possible about events, so do get in touch with your suggestions using the contact details below.

## How to get in touch

We are available for conversations with you or your family and to answer any questions you might have.

- **For the site management team:** email [GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk](mailto:GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk) or phone **0303 444 0011**
- **Our next community online 'drop-in' event will be on Tuesday 2 February, 6 to 7pm. You can join with this weblink: [bit.ly/2FebEvent](http://bit.ly/2FebEvent).** Please email us if you would like us to send the link to the event to you directly, or if you have a specific question that you would like us to answer.
- **We will hold an earlier event for bereaved families and survivors on Monday 1 February, 6 to 7pm. Please contact us if you would like the details.**

*The digital signs around the site will contain the latest information about the works. You can also read all Grenfell Tower community updates and letters online at: [www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates](http://www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates).*

**For information about the independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission:**



- Email [GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk](mailto:GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk) or phone **0303 444 4831**
- Visit [www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk](http://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk) to find out about their work, including the ideas and thoughts they have heard from people so far. You can share your ideas [here](#)
- Join the mailing list via the [contact](#) page
- **Follow them on Twitter** ([@GrenfellTowerMC](https://twitter.com/GrenfellTowerMC))

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