



Grenfell Tower site update: summary and Q&A from 2 March online meeting

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At our community online information meeting on 2 March 2021, we updated attendees on the rewinding of the Tower, the planned safety works taking place on site, and the relocation of the nearby electricity substation. We gave an update on the procurement of a principal contractor on the site, and some of 'social value' opportunities that we are offering to local residents and others. We also introduced the technical director of Atkins, the engineering contractors, who explained their role on the site.

During the meeting, we shared details of how you can give your thoughts about the Tower and the future memorial as outlined in [the letter we sent to the community on 22 January](#) and gave a reminder about the health and wellbeing services available.

The event panel

Event attendees were able to post questions to our panel:

- Matt Hogan: Grenfell Tower site manager working for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
- Victoria Pitman: a civil servant in the community engagement team at MHCLG
- Laura Williams: a civil servant in the community engagement team at MHCLG
- Ed Newman-Sanders: technical director of Atkins site contractors,

The questions we received are summarised on pages 3 and 4 of this document.

You can also watch a [video of the event](#).

Our next community online event on the Tower is on 1 April – please see the joining details 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 meeting 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. Potential suppliers gave a presentation to interested members of the community in March.

Social value

An important part of the procurement is social value. This means that the companies contracted by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) agree to bring social, economic or environmental benefits to the community. Examples include providing work experience opportunities, and free online courses in a range of subjects including construction, hospitality, and business administration. We are working with community representatives to understand what is important for you in terms of social value, and have set up a group to support the procurement process.

- **If you would like to join our social value group, please contact us using the details at the end of this document**
- **Find out more about the principal contractor procurement in our [December update](#)**

Rewrapping the Tower

The outer layer of white wrapping around Grenfell Tower deteriorates over time and needs to be replaced regularly, which we have been doing once a year. We began the current replacement on 6 March and it will take around 10 weeks, depending on the weather. The Tower will not be visible while the rewrapping takes place. The rewrapping will be carried out sensitively and is not expected to cause disruption. For further details, see our rewrapping [leaflet](#).

Share your thoughts on the Tower and the future memorial

Since September 2020, independent organisation, Kaizen, 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.

You can share your views with Kaizen in whichever way suits you best, including in different languages. While we and Kaizen are able to send you letters, Kaizen do not have your phone numbers or email addresses, so please contact them directly to arrange a conversation:

- Email your views to: GrenfellTower@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.

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 [grenfellwellbeing.com](https://www.grenfellwellbeing.com) for information.
- There's a community respiratory service from Imperial College, London, which offers checks to bereaved families, survivors, and the local community to understand more about lung function. It is available through the NHS dedicated service or your GP.
- 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](https://www.grenfellwellbeing.com) for information.

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 we received.

Q When will you be contacting residents' associations in the area within 500 metres of Grenfell Tower to find out their thoughts on the future of the Tower site?

A: Independent community engagement organisation, Kaizen, has been in touch with residents' associations and others in the community over the past year. We also hope to begin meeting in person with residents and others soon.

If you haven't had the chance to share your thoughts with Kaizen, which you can do in whichever way suits you best, you can:

- Email your views to: 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

Q: Have you given the Lancaster West Estate Residents' Association (LWRA) details of the social value offer?

A: Yes, earlier this year, we sent out information to a number of local community and residents' associations, including the LWRA, giving details of the different opportunities available. If you did not receive that information and would like to find out more about the offer, please email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or phone **0303 444 0011**.

Q: Does the Atkins' technical director Ed Newman-Sanders (on the event panel) have experience of working on anything similar to the Grenfell Tower site?

A: Atkins are specialists in reinforced concrete and supporting damaged structures, and are leading the safety works on the Grenfell Tower site on behalf of MHCLG. Ed Newman-Sanders explained that he has worked for Atkins for a number of years and designed many reinforced concrete buildings similar to Grenfell Tower, which has given him a good understanding of how they can become damaged and how to

best support the damaged structure. His experience includes assessing the damage to a large building following a major gas explosion.

Q: Do the textured ceiling coatings that you are removing from inside the Tower contain asbestos?

A: The textured artex ceiling coatings contain a very small amount of chrysotile ('white') asbestos. It is being removed carefully by licensed asbestos removal specialists under controlled conditions which means that each area being worked is sealed air-tight before works start, all removed asbestos is placed in sealed containers, then promptly removed and disposed of at an off-site facility, and contractors wear protective clothing and change in secure locations on site. There is regular asbestos air testing in place on site, which has not identified any asbestos fibre levels in air around the Tower. For further information, please see our [September meeting write up](#).

Q: Why is the Tower wrapping being changed now?

A: The Tower is rewrapped for a number of reasons: to protect the building from the weather, to sensitively and respectfully cover the building from view, and for the safety of any workers on the scaffolding between the blue inner layer and white outer layer of wrapping. The current rewrapping started on 6 March and is scheduled to last for around 10 weeks. We have started the rewrapping a few weeks later this year than last, as bad winter weather last year led to a number of delays, which we hope to avoid with a later start date.

For more information, please see our rewrapping [leaflet](#) which has been distributed across the community and to local schools. If you did not receive a leaflet and would like one, please get in touch with us at GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or phone **0303 444 0011**

How to get in touch

We are available for conversations with you or your family and to answer any questions you might have. We will also be writing to you soon with details of how you can receive further information on the future of the Tower.

To contact the site management team: email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or phone **0303 444 0011**

Our next community online 'drop-in' event is on Thursday 1 April, 6 to 7pm. [Click here to join](#)

- 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 are holding an earlier event for bereaved families and survivors on Tuesday 30 March, 6 to 7pm. Please contact us if you would like the joining 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.

For information about the independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission:

- Email GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk or phone **0303 444 4831**
- Visit www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk to find out about their work, including the thoughts they have heard from people so far. You can share your ideas [here](#)
- Sign up to their mailing list and newsletter via the [contact](#) page

Grenfell Tower
Memorial Commission

- Follow them on Twitter ([@GrenfellTowerMC](https://twitter.com/GrenfellTowerMC))

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