

Grenfell Tower site update: summary of community online meetings

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At our community online meetings on 16 September, 12 October and 9 November 2021, we updated on the future of Grenfell Tower, safety works at the Tower, noise monitoring and Tower banner illumination. We also gave updates 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

- Suzanne Kochanowski: a civil servant in the community engagement team at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
- Anjni Patel, a civil servant in the community engagement team at DLUHC
- Matt Hogan, a civil servant in the site management team at DLUHC
- Steve Jones/Paul Ford, from DUK, the principal contractor for the Grenfell Tower site

You can watch the three latest meetings by clicking below:

- [9 November meeting](#)
- [12 October meeting](#)
- [16 September meeting](#)

The future of the Tower

Further to his meeting with bereaved families and survivors in October, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP, has written to all bereaved families and survivors – including those who could not attend – with his reflections on the discussion. He made clear that no decision has yet been taken about Grenfell Tower and that he would approach this only in dialogue with bereaved families and survivors, residents, and those closely affected by the tragedy.

This letter is the Secretary of State's initial response following these first meetings, and he will write again in due course with next steps.

Safety works

Ongoing safety works at the Tower include the installation of additional props (aluminium and steel supports) to ensure the stability of the Tower, and maintenance of the Tower wrapping and site hoarding. 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 safely live, work and go

to school nearby. You can read more about the safety works in our [July 2020 community update and letter](#).

Noise monitoring

Noise levels at the Tower site are measured 24 hours a day at three locations. Regulations require that levels must not go above 70 decibels between 8am and 6pm and must not go above 73 decibels over a one-hour period. The site contractors are also asked to keep noise to a minimum, especially before 9am and after 5pm.

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 will be fully illuminated in green from 4pm to 11pm on 14 December to mark 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 are being 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. Read more about the stage 2 findings and further sampling in our [community update from July 2021](#).

Relocating the electricity substation

The electricity substation on the ground floor of Grenfell Tower is being moved to a new location and this should be complete by February 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 such as training and apprenticeships, or supporting local businesses.

At meetings with DUK and community groups, we are discussing which opportunities are prioritised so that as much of the community as possible can benefit.

We are also holding a drop-in where you can find out more. Come along between 10am and 1pm on Wednesday 8 December at Bay20, 71 St Marks Rd, London W10 6JG.

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**.

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

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 on **020 8637 6279** (from 8am to 8pm) and **0800 0234 650** (overnight from 8pm).

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 Are you feeding back on the questions you've been receiving about the Tower from the community?

A Yes we are. Questions about the Tower site, such as noise or lighting, or specific questions about the future of the Tower, are answered as we receive them. We are also collating all views expressed on what should happen to the Tower to feed into the decision when that is taken. If the question is about the future memorial, it will be forwarded to the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission. You can contact the Memorial Commission directly at www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact.

Q If people are unable to come to your community online meetings, are there other ways they can ask questions about the Tower?

A Yes. People can contact us by email or phone (details are below). We are also running drop-ins twice a week from 10am to 1pm on Wednesday 8, and 15 December at Bay20, 71 St Marks Road W10 6JG, and Friday 9 and 16 December at The Curve, 10 Bard Road W10 6TH. More opportunities to talk to us will be confirmed in the new year.

Our next community online meeting is on 7 December, 6pm to 7pm.

- [Click here to join online](#) (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** and enter conference ID: **956 853 245#**

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. Please let us know how you would most like to talk to us, for example by phone, in person, or perhaps at an existing community event.

- email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk
- phone **0303 444 0011**

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 (December 2021)