

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Meeting
with North Kensington residents**
(Thursday 29 April 2021)

Attendees

Memorial Commission

Michael Lockwood
(Meeting chair)

(Bereaved Representatives) (Survivor Representatives¹ (Lancaster West Representatives)
Mohammad Rasoul Andrea Newton
Abraham Abebe

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission secretariat (2)

Other

Residents (2)

Meeting purpose

The purpose of these meetings is to update residents on the Commission's work and to provide an opportunity for residents to share their thoughts, ideas, suggestions about a memorial, any concerns they have and to ask questions.

Introductions

Michael and the community representatives introduced themselves. They explained their role on the Commission and that they are keen to engage with bereaved, survivors, local residents and the North Kensington community to understand their views on a fitting memorial. They explained that this is the Commission's second meeting with the North Kensington residents, and that these will take place regularly (online meeting schedule [here](#)).

Discussion

- An attendee gave an update on some of their work in the local area and mentioned that a lot of people are not clear whether the Tower was coming down or not. The attendee mentioned ideas that they shared with Kaizen and the secretariat. Michael thanked the attendee for sharing the ideas and mentioned the need to be guided by the community's thoughts and ideas. Michael also explained that decisions around the future of the Tower were not part of the Memorial Commission's work but the responsibility of government.
- An attendee suggested that the memorial process is an opportunity to create something that really honours the community, something that is a big beacon of hope, and something that is positive. They shared that green is a symbol of plants and nature, and that a memorial has powerful symbolism. They mentioned it was inherent that humans want to connect with nature, and that this is vital for a community needing to heal. They emphasised the importance of a green

¹ For the purposes of the Memorial Commission, this refers to former residents of Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk.

environment for wellbeing and suggested an urban sanctuary or forest with plants and trees for people to recharge and reconnect.

- The community representatives were really interested in the ideas suggested and welcomed the attendees to join more of the meetings or meet, one to one. They set out that this would be a way to honour the people that the community lost and loved, and also to honour the planet. An attendee mentioned biophilic design, and that they were in the creative industry and worked with quite a few designers and would love to help the community put something together.
- An attendee agreed on the ideas suggested and trusted that the Commission's work will result in 'something beautiful'.
- Michael set out some of the Commission's progress to date, explaining how they have been working for 18 months to get set up, to engage with bereaved, survivors and local stakeholders, and to ensure that they have the right support in place. They have looked at other memorials to understand how these have responded to obstacles and achievements. All these memorials are different, but there is something to learn from them all.
- An attendee mentioned the idea that it could become a community gardening project because it gives direct involvement. It would be an invitation to the community, as there are healing aspects to nature. They suggested that the schools could take this on, or that maintenance could be the responsibility of the whole community.
- Michael mentioned that the Commission has been speaking to others to get them to share ideas and words, that what they think the memorial should reflect. Michael mentioned the newsletter (sign up [here](#)) and the secretariat confirmed this was monthly and timed with the monthly [blog](#).
- An attendee suggested the Commission look at the Hillsborough memorial (Anfield) and said that there is space around it, that it is outside the football stadium and that it stands alone. A community representative agreed that the memorial was beautiful.
- A community representative asked an attendee, based on their comments regarding the holistic space of the memorial, how do they want to see the future memorial with the healing words and what does it mean, the idea in terms of healing to the community/children? The attendee replied with a space that is completely green and that can be seen from all around, not just a pretty garden, but something that is living and where the community can introduce insects, animals, wildlife into the heart of the city. The attendee mentioned we all are aware that reintroducing plants and reforesting urban environments is important for our health and wellbeing. Currently as a society, especially in an urban environment, we are disconnected from nature, which is where a lot of stress and anxiety comes from.
- The community representatives agreed that something green and living that can be maintained as a community to keep showing they care would be something that resonates with a lot of people.
- Michael thanked the attendee and said that it was a very good conversation and he himself had written a lot of very powerful, lovely words.

- Michael asked an attendee if there was anything further to add, and the attendee added the word transcend. The attendee said that whatever was created should go beyond and above and transcend politics and local issue, because of what happened and what the community are all living with is so much bigger than anyone can possibly fathom on a day-to-day basis. The attendee said the memorial needs to capture that and that it shouldn't reflect one particular approach to this atrocity, or tragedy, but should transcend this and be something that is beautiful.
- The community representatives agreed and said the green element works because it is about sowing a seed for the future and saying we want to grow into something, and we want to nurture something that kind of lives beyond that.
- Michael suggested the attendees continue liaising with the community representatives.
- A question was raised by the attendee on how the future memorial would be financed. Michael said the attendee need not worry regarding that point, and that funding would be available.
- Michael closed the meeting by saying some lovely words had been said in the meeting, and repeated the words used: health, wellbeing, space, sanctuary, tranquillity, transcendence, and safe space. Michael thanked all who attended and the input/ideas that were provided.

Next meeting with the North Kensington community:

29 July 2021 18:00 - 19:00.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

Phone +44 20 3795 5763 and give Conference ID 602170635#

To share ideas about the memorial, you can contact the Memorial Commission via the details below:

Phone: 0303 444 4831

Email: GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/>

Contact your community representatives [here](#)

Alternatively, you can contact our engagement specialists, Kaizen:

Phone: 020 7082 5508

Email: grenfellmemorial@kaizen.org.uk

Letter to: Kaizen, 22a Cliff Villas, London, NW1 9AT