

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission (GTMC) Meeting  
22 January 2026**

**Attendees**

**Memorial Commission**

Thelma Stober  
Lord Paul Boateng (Chair)

**Community Representatives**

(Bereaved representatives)	(Survivor representatives)	(Lancaster West and immediate community representatives)
Adel Chaoui	Hanan Cherbika	Susan Al Safadi
Sandra Ruiz		Andrea Newton
Paulos Tekle		Samia Badani
Hassan Hassan		Abbas Dadou

**Apologies:**

Abraham Abebe  
Hanan Wahabi  
Mohammed Rasoul  
Nabil Choucair

**Secretariat**

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission secretariat: 4 individuals

**Other**

Jonathan Hagos, Freehaus  
Julia King, Social Place  
Olivia Theocharides-Feldman, Social Place  
Stephanie Edwards, Independent Design Adviser  
Peter Neal, Independent Landscape Design Adviser  
Camilla Sheldon, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)  
Helen Town, MHCLG

**Meeting purpose**

The seventy-sixth meeting of the Memorial Commission, to discuss progress of the design team's work, and an update from MHCLG.

**Opening**

- A one-minute silence was held at the start of the meeting.
- It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
- Lord Paul Boateng opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance.
- No new conflicts of interests were declared.

- The secretariat presented the minutes from the December meeting for approval, along with an update on the risk register and action log.

### **Agenda item 1: Design team update**

- Freehaus gave an update on their recent work and thanked the community representatives for their support. They highlighted that they are coming to the end of the RIBA stage 1, which has involved the preparation and refining of the project brief. Freehaus discussed how the stages provide a clear and structured approach for architects and others involved in a project to clearly understand the progression of work, right from inception to completion.
- Thelma Stober advised that the Commission will need to be satisfied that the key objectives for the memorial are being met and are in line with the expectations of the community. Freehaus acknowledged how important this was at all stages of the work.
- Lord Boateng stressed need for Freehaus and team to keep up pace and to schedule.
- One community representative shared concerns around the possible impact of the current work by the government, including around deconstruction, and RBKC on the work of the Commission.
- The secretariat said that a refreshed risk log would be brought to the February monthly meeting which will take account of these concerns. There will be space on the February agenda to discuss this.

### **Agenda item 2: Design team engagement strategy**

- Julia King outlined the Social Place presentation, focusing on the following key points that will inform the Grenfell community engagement strategy:
  - the approach will not be 'a one size fits all', and will include different formats and options based on different personal needs and preferences
  - the approach will be trauma-informed
  - all engagement feedback will be recorded, demonstrating what has been heard and where appropriate from who, and evidencing that, so that this information can be communicated back to the community as we move through the work.
- Lord Boateng highlighted that it is important to recognise that people will define themselves in different ways and that self-identity must be respected and documented.

- Jonathan Hagos explained that there will be a propositional, 'show and tell' component to the engagement, to help give community members concepts and physical ideas to engage with, to comment on and express the personal pros and cons of. He emphasised the importance of transparency, of being very clear of what can be influenced and when, and of frequent reporting back during the process of co-creating a design with the community.
- Thelma Stober expressed that it is very important to differentiate about how this engagement is different and progressive to what has already taken place by the Commission, and also that every individual must also feel valued. This was echoed by the community representatives, who expressed the importance of clarifying why the community is being invited to participate, how their views will be used, and also the need for upcoming engagement to navigate important cultural and religious dates and holidays.
- Julia King invited the representatives to contribute their knowledge about existing forums, places and other approaches to engagement that would be most effective.
- Freehaus and Social Place agreed that their approach to engagement will remain an open conversation throughout the work.

### **Agenda item 3: MHCLG update**

- Helen Town updated on the status of the second site, explaining the sensitivity of the approach being taken to transport materials to there from the Tower site, and explaining the size of the second site in hectares, its accessibility and its distance from nearby motorways.
- Helen Town advised that there is testing being carried out on Grenfell Tower materials such as the crown to test viability of these Tower materials being included within the memorial, should the Grenfell community wish for that to happen.

### **Agenda item 4: Secretariat update**

- A community representative raised a question about the future of Grenfell Walk. It was agreed that this would be tabled at the next Commission meeting, acknowledging that clarity from RBKC is a priority.

- A community representative said that the retention of materials from the Tower, or retaining parts of the Tower in situ, is a priority for the design team to be aware of. They expressed that this is about protecting the commitment that was made and which must be honoured with the community.

## **AOB**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will take place on 12 February.

You can contact the Memorial Commission directly using the details below:

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