

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission (GTMC) Meeting
10 September 2026

Attendees

Memorial Commission co-chairs

Thelma Stober
Lord Paul Boateng (Chair)

Community representatives

Bereaved representatives:

Paulos Tekle
Hanan Wahabi
Hassan Awadh Hassan
Sandra Ruiz
Adel Chaoui

Survivor representatives:

Abe Abebe
Mohammed Rasoul

*Lancaster West and
immediate community
representatives:*

Abbas Dadou
Andrea Newto
Samia Badani
Susan Al-Safadi

Apologies

Nabil Choucair
Hanan Cherbika

Meeting purpose

The eighty-third 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
- Welcome and introductions
- Paul Boateng opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance.
- No new conflicts of interests were declared.
- The secretariat presented the minutes from the July meeting for approval, which were agreed by the community representatives and co-chairs.

Item 1: Attendance by MHCLG ministers

- The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Angela Rayner MP, and the Building Safety Minister, Baroness Blake, attended to discuss progress on the memorial and wider issues affecting the bereaved, survivors and the

immediate community.

- The discussion focused on the need to move forward with pace and clarity, while recognising the ongoing impact of the tragedy on families and residents. The Commission emphasised the importance of delivering a world-class memorial that will honour those who lost their lives and reflects the wishes of the community.
- A community representative raised the future of Grenfell Walk, including the council's engagement with former Grenfell Walk residents and others on this matter.
- A community representative raised the need for continued progress on decisions affecting the memorial, and ministers highlighted that this a priority for them and that they are committed to supporting the community with this endeavour.
- A community representative spoke of the importance of sensitivity and clarity around matters relating to human remains, and about the wishes of the families being central to what happens here.
- Community representatives highlighted concerns about housing and investment within the Lancaster West Estate, and about the future surrounding area of the future memorial.
- Community representatives raised the issue of upcoming changes to health and wellbeing support, especially given the upcoming 10th anniversary.
- A community representative described the importance of Grenfell being included in the school curriculum and of future generations understanding what happened at Grenfell.
- Community representatives stressed that the memorial should be delivered as soon as possible and that decisions should be taken in a way that maintains trust and respects the experiences of those most affected. They also highlighted the need for transparency, timely decision-making and continued ministerial support.
- Ministers thanked attendees for sharing their views and acknowledged the emotional weight of the issues discussed. They committed to supporting the Commission and to following up on the key issues raised, including by working with the different partners involved.
- The meeting closed with thanks to ministers, Commission members and community representatives for their continued commitment to delivering a lasting and meaningful memorial.

Item 2: Design Team update

- Jonathan Hagos (JH) and the Freehaus design team provided an update on the emerging memorial design and the engagement undertaken to date with bereaved families, survivors and the immediate community, including the formats and frequency of engagement offered and the numbers that have participated.
- The presented emerging design reflected components shaped and informed by the community so far, including the inclusion of retained elements of Grenfell Tower, a tall

structure, and a space for prayer and reflection by multi-faiths and how these have stemmed from the wishes expressed by the community.

- JH confirmed that, following work with MHCLG, the design is considered technically viable and deliverable within budget.
- JH discussed the emerging design approach, including broad support for a building or space for reflection and prayer. Andy Thomson highlighted the importance of the landscape, particularly in ensuring the memorial works within a residential area, and prepares visitors for the memorial rather than simply acting as a route through the area
- Julia King (JK), discussed the importance of being able to trace ideas back to individuals or groups, while also recognising and giving appropriate weight to minority views, and capturing how when individual views change and develop over time.
- JK also confirmed the prioritisation of bereaved family views, and explained how their preferences are reflected in the evolving design.
- A community representative raised the distinction between “community informed” and ‘co-design’. The group agreed that the language used, including within community communications, must be clearly defined and must reflect the approach and extensive breadth of community engagement undertaken; alongside the rigour applied in using community insight and wishes to shape the evolving design.
- The discussion covered the importance of clear language around co-design and community engagement, the need to reflect different views within the engagement data, how different views will be navigated, and the importance of considering faith, accessibility and the wider landscape as the design develops.

Item 3: Discussion on next steps

- Paul Boateng (PB) asked the Commission if they were happy for the design process to move to the next RIBA stage. He asked the Commission to confirm they were happy with the integrity of the engagement, that the community had been given an opportunity to engage and that it had reached the threshold had been met for this stage of work.
- The Commission confirmed that they were satisfied with the integrity of the process and the opportunity for the community to engage, subject to further clarity being provided about Lancaster West Estate engagement data. Co-chairs also requested a further opportunity to review and discuss the central role of the bereaved families in the memorial design process and to ensure opportunities to engage are maximised, and to convey acceptance of the approach taken in the RIBA stages so far by the design team.
- The co-chairs also referenced priority memorial aspects to be progressed further in the weeks ahead, including the development of the space for multi-faith prayer and reflection within the memorial.

- The Commission agreed that the project could move forward if further information from Freehaus was provided to support assurance around the process and any areas where it could be challenged in future.

Any other business

- It was agreed that the next GTMC meeting would move to Monday 19 October to allow Commission members to attend the Aberfan anniversary service later that same week. The secretariat confirmed that attendance details and arrangements would be organised with Commission members in the coming days.
- A community representative raised the importance of considering the role of Transport for London, Latimer Road Station and the surrounding public transport environment in the future setting of the Memorial. They highlighted the need for accessible, step-free access and suggested that opportunities for a lasting recognition of Grenfell within the station could be explored.

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

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