

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
GRENFELL TOWER FIRE GOLD GROUP MEETING – 16 JUNE 2017
10AM AT KENSINGTON TOWN HALL
ACTION SHEET

Present:

Present:

Nicholas Holgate (CE), John Allen (HBC), Nick Austin (DEH), Robert Armstrong (HRB), Kevin Bartle (DF), Clare Chamberlain (DFCS), Richard Egan (DPS), Laura Johnson (DH), Debbie Morris (DHR), Stuart Priestly (HCS), Sue Redmond (EDASC), Tony Redpath (DSLS), Beverley Kuchar (HDM), Martin Fitzpatrick (HMC), and Stuart Priestley (HCS).

Also in attendance: Robert Black (KCTMO), John Barradell (LLAC), Alex Woodman (LLAC), Spencer Sutcliff (BFC), Mark Swayar, Gerry (Southwark) and Robin Campbell (WCC Coms).

1. Any Urgent Business

Community Cohesion

- Intelligence received of a March taking place today at Marshman Street. All agreed this was a matter for the Police.
- SP also reported of a protest outside the Town Hall at 5pm today. Only 10 people have thus far signed up to attend via Facebook. SP to report this to Amey, Governance and the Borough Commander.
- Staff are being targeted by locals. BECC to send details of the current cordon and area along with a map to all departments and ask them to think hard on what activities they are performing in the area and to double check with their directors if in doubt.
- Directors to take a view of all services in the area and report back to the BECC on what services they were suspending, including those undertaken by contractors.

2. Introductions and Actions from previous meeting

Introductions were made and actions noted.

3. Situation Update

- A briefing from BECC on the current situation as at 7am was tabled. The report identifies strategic priorities which need agreeing.
- The BECC was putting a rota together for the next 48 hours to resource the BECC and Rest Centre with a view to moving to an 8 hour shift pattern.
- Will have an information officer in the BECC as key point of contact.

4. Agree Strategic Priorities

Looking after those immediately affected

- 109 families have been placed in commercial accommodation, 30 families are from the finger blocks and Treadgold House.
- Lack of clarity from the Police regarding re-occupation. Staff are telling families from the finger blocks they can stay in commercial accommodation until there is a clear message from the Police.
- Some families did return to their homes last night. There is no hot water and heating in the re-occupied blocks. The TMO are looking to install temporary boilers. There were broken doors, debris and flooding which the TMO are working on resolving. RB to advise the BECC once the temporary boiler is in place.
- LJ to supply the number of families evacuated from Grenfall Walk.
- Treadgold House is still evacuated. Police are turning people away.
- 15 people stayed at the Rest Centre last night.
- LJ confirmed she has sufficient hotels to accommodate up to 20 families. She will house the vulnerable or those with children without hot water but others will have to manage.
- Organised rota for housing advice at the Rest Centre from 10am-10pm every day. Have a team deployed to at Rugby Portobello Trust and West Trust.

Assisting the statutory authorities with their investigation

- RBKC have appointed lawyers.
- All to keep a record of decisions with reasons going forwards.
- BK to speak to LeVerne Parker (LP) regarding what documents to maintain and log.
- TMO have appointed their own lawyers and are having to balance PR decisions with the Legalities of the inquiry. Been advised that the police could take their servers.
- BK to speak to BG about contingency plans if the Council's services are taken away.
- NH to instruct LP to lead on the inquiry.
- TR to liaise with LP to set up an internal group working on the inquiry.

Responding quickly and effectively to manage the incident

- JA reported there is sagging in top two floors which could have a cascading effect. Do not know how long it will take to remove the deceased from the Tower. May need to extend the cordon.

- JA requested the TMO for any structural drawings of the Tower to help the emergency services. RB to get Peter Maddison to provide the drawings.
- RE to confirm that Property Services were involved in the refurbishment of the Tower.

Providing Visible Leadership

- The Leader and Deputy Leader have been out communicating messages.
- There is a move for a community meeting which the Strategic Communications Group (SCG) will discuss and decide on. TR and Robin Campbell to attend the SCG.

5. Key Issues and Strategic Decisions

Humanitarian Assistance (including Emergency Rest Centre, Community Assistance Centre, offers of accommodation)

- TR assisting in identifying properties for a Community Assistance Centre. Need space with furniture, barriers and private rooms with provision for people to speak to Liaison officers.
- TR to confirm availability of the WSC beyond the weekend with the Westway Trust.
- NH said we should continue to use WSC and asked RE and SR to identify a place by 12noon today.

Donations and Offers of Assistance

- Filled three sites with donations. Searching for more. Took in 1000 vehicles yesterday with donations. Next stage is to consider distribution of donations based on need.
- TR confirmed M&S, Westfield and Entertainer will take donations off our hands and use their logistical system to distribute them, allowing the Council to concentrate on the people.
- KR said the Red Cross have offered help.
- 1.5k volunteers have registered. Staff have been incredible. Primarily using Council staff. DM to coordinate with the BECC with regards to volunteers.

Site Security and Clearance

- BECC to think about the security of building once the cordon has been lifted.

Communications

- Pressure in M&C is intense.
- Our spokesman is unable to get hearings. Shifting focus to controllable media. Two leaflets in productions to get messages out.
- Got additional resources in from neighbouring boroughs to assist with coms.
- RB and MF to work together on a number of coms issues.
- John Barradell (JB) asked MF to ensure flow of information goes to staff on the front.

London Local Authority Gold

- JB outlined what he and his team would be doing. Which is primarily to compliment what we are doing and give us some respite. He praised the Council for managing on their own for so long but now was the time to get in help and support.

Floral Tributes

- DM said she had not seen any. Suggestion is they are building up by the wall.
- BECC officers are looking at locations. One suggestion is on Lancaster Road between Grenfell Road and WSC. All agreed to let the community to decide where to lay floral tributes, unless it became a safety issue.
- BECC to decide what we do with them at a respectable point of time. Normally they would be composted and put in flower beds around the borough.

Resources for the next 3 days and 14 days

- The BECC and WSC would be running 24 hours until this group instructs otherwise.
- BECC to ensure there is senior RBKC representation at WSC.
- BECC to clarify the purpose and use of the WSC as there is a danger of it being inundated with people.
- All asked to identify what recourses they need in the next 48 hours.

6. Recovery and Medium/Long Term issues

Mutual Aid

- Noted lots of boroughs are ready and waiting to help.

Impact on services

- The Housing desk at KTH to remain closed. WCC and LBHF will be covering.

- Housing have asked for 10 volunteers from WCC and LBHF to help with cover over the next few days.
- All to consider business as usual in their plans.

Financial Considerations

- KB was keeping a log of expenses.
- A designated cost code has been set up.

7. Reporting Rhythm (including arrangements for the weekend)

To meet again at 4.30pm today by invitation.

8. Any Other Business

None

The meeting ended at 10.48pm

Nicholas Holgate