

Grenfell Action Group

Working to defend and serve the
Lancaster West community



← OOPS

TO BE OR NOT TO BE.....→

THE GLOVES COME OFF

Posted on [February 24, 2013](#)



The Grenfell Action Group is not loved in official circles. No surprises there. However, the gloves have come off recently, and the attacks on us have become more ruthless and vindictive, with signs, perhaps, of a conspiracy to destroy us by character assassination, false accusations, and other unsavoury methods.

we invite our readers to spend a little time reading the thread of recent emails reproduced below, and to form your own conclusions about what's going on here.

11th February

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Dear Councillor Foreman,

I am now writing to you, formally, on behalf of the Lancaster West Residents Association, the Grenfell Action Group and the Grenfell Tower Leaseholders Association to request that our local Ward Councillors facilitate a Community Meeting (as referred to in my emails to Councillor Blakeman on the 8th and 5th Feb 2013) to address resident's legitimate concerns about the ill treatment of our community?

We request this meeting takes place without any undue delay and that Councillor Coleridge (in his capacity as the Council's KALC representative and Council's Housing Cabinet Member) along with a representative from the Planning Dept. (Mr Bore?), also, attend.

Needless to say, the residents that elected you to represent our community expect your earnest co-operation with the above request.

Kind regards,
Edward Daffarn
Grenfell Action Group.

- A Flying Mallet
- A Funny Thing Happened...The KALC Planning Application
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- A Small Victory
- A Special Invitation
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- An open Letter to Nick Paget-Brown
- An Open Letter to RBKC Legal Services
- Another Fine Mess...
- Another Fire Safety Scandal
- APOLOGIES TO OUR READERS
- Asbestos Scare At KALC
- AUDITOR SLAMS FIRE SAFETY AT EAST KENT HOUSING
- AXE THE ACT DEMO
- Aylesbury Estate Occupied By Housing Activists
- Aylesbury Estate Versus Police State
- 'Mystery Shoppers' At North Kensington Library
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- "The Grenfell Pathway"- Will lessons be learned?
- Bad Air Days
- Bad Air Days – A Deepining Crisis
- Biting The Hand....
- Blakeman And Coleridge – The War Drags On
- Blakeman And Coleridge And The Gulf Of Mistrust
- Blakeman Bows Out – One Less Problem for Lancaster West?
- Blakeman Scores Some Points
- Block Boris – Demonstrate Against MIPIM
- Boris – Block The Budget
- Brickley's Travels
- CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE CLADDING AND INSULATION
- Campaign To Save Elliott School Playing Fields
- CCHP – When Is A Policy Not A Policy?
- Combustible Cladding – Early Warnings Ignored!

12th February

Dear Mr Daffarn

Thank you for your email. The ward councillors are aware of many of the problems residents are encountering and we are raising them with and on behalf of residents with the contractors and the Council on an on-going basis. We believe that the best way to address these problems is immediately and directly with the contractors, whose contact details are widely advertised across the Estate and were set out in the newsletter that went through every local letterbox at the end of last year. General problems and those of wider application are best raised at the regular Residents' Forums.

If residents also wish to have a public meeting, it would not add any value to these existing mechanisms unless the decision makers and those able to influence events directly – Cllr. Coleridge, the contractors and the Council – agree to attend and respond. If you obtain an undertaking from Cllr Coleridge, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Miller the new Project Manager and Mr. Chiles to attend the meeting that you seek, we will of course help to facilitate it. I would suggest that it is not held until after 1 March, which is when the new Project Manager takes over from Mr. Wright on his retirement.

I am also forwarding this reply to the Grenfell Action Group, the Grenfell Leaseholders Association, the Lancaster West Residents' Association and the Lancaster West Estate Management board for their information.

Kind regards.
Cllr. Todd Foreman

13th February

Dear Eddie

I have seen your e-mail of 11th February 2013 to Cllr Todd Foreman, inviting him to attend a public meeting called by yourself. In the same e-mail you suggest that I might wish to attend such a meeting.

Since the beginning of this project you have made it clear that you do not want either the new Academy to be built, nor the new Leisure centre. The decision to go ahead was democratically made by the Royal Borough Council, the British Government who are providing a grant of £17M, the local Planning Authority and the Mayor of London. Since these democratic decision have been made they have been accepted by the vast majority of local residents (many of whom are looking forward to a new academy for their children and a new leisure centre), but apparently not by you. You continue to do all you can to disrupt and delay the project, causing considerable extra work for officers, contractors and Councillors. If you have a legitimate complaint to make it will be dealt with properly, but

- [Comments On The Planning Application](#)
- [Complaint to RBKC – North Kensington Library](#)
- [CONDEM Government Vandalises School Sports](#)
- [Considerate Constructors](#)
- [Court Victory For 'Our House'](#)
- [Crisis – Kensington and Chelsea College Under Threat](#)
- [Cry Havoc And Let Slip The Dogs Of war](#)
- [Dale Youth – A Nugget Of Boxing Gold](#)
- [Dale Youth – A Source Of Pride](#)
- [Day Of Housing Activism – A Call To Arms](#)
- [Dead Man Walking – Merrick Cockell](#)
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- [DEREGULATION AND THE GRENFELL TOWER FIRE](#)
- [Direct Action – We Salute The Guinness Trust Occupation In](#)

your long trail of e-mails over months and months leads me to believe that you have your own agenda, which is not a positive one for either the future school or local residents interests. Local residents want the work finished on time, and to be able to enjoy what will be a much improved environment.

Eddie, so long as you continue to hound our officers and local councillors to satisfy your own agenda I am unwilling to attend a meeting called by yourself. I believe it was you that sprayed some offensive messages on the hoardings (you have not denied it) and this apart from being criminal damage was upsetting to local residents, and has for me called into question your motives.

Sincerely

Councillor Coleridge

13th February
Tim
Fantastic – thank you SOOO much.
Judith

18 February

Dear Francis

Just for your information, I would like to reiterate that the ward councillors are more than willing to address any legitimate concerns and complaints that residents raise with regard to the KALC project and the Grenfell Tower and Verity Close improvement works. What we are no longer prepared to address are complaints that are couched in tendentious, abusive, offensive or bullying terms. Neither will we tolerate visits to our surgery that are conducted in a similar fashion. I believe that Cllr. Coleridge has given out much the same message.

We will also not deal with vexatious complaints that are intended solely to delay the completion of the construction works. We have received and continue to receive a significant amount of feedback from local residents and their most earnest wish is for the project to be completed on time and ideally before time. Most residents do not have the opportunity to leave the area for extended holidays to get away from the disruption.

Kind regards.

Judith

20th February

- Brixton
- DISPATCHES – GRENFELL ACTION GROUP REPLY
 - Divide And Rule
 - Doing us down!
 - Don't Mention The Slum Word
 - Doors Wide Open
 - EAST 4 WEST – A BEAUTIFUL MESSAGE!
 - East London March For Homes led by Focus E15
 - Edward George And The Great RBKC Planning Dept Fob Off
 - Enough Is enough – Testerton Walk
 - FBU – Foam Insulation Banned In Furniture Since 1988
 - FBU Responds to upcoming Channel 4 Grenfell Dispatches programme
 - Feilding-Mellen – RBKC's Social Cleansing Hitman
 - Feilding-Mellen Bang To Rights? – No Way!
 - Feilding-Mellen Versus Longniddry
 - Fightin' Talk
 - Film released ahead of Fire Door Safety Week
 - FIRE DOOR SAFETY WEEK
 - Fire Safety Scandal At Lancaster West
 - Firefighters Anger At 40% Rise In London Fire Deaths
 - FLAMMABLE CLADDING – NO UNIVERSAL BAN
 - Flies To Wanton Boys
 - Flogging A Dead Horse
 - Flood at the New Pools
 - Focus E 15 Mothers – Liberating The Carpenters Estate
 - Focus E15 – March Against Evictions
 - FPA – New Campaign for Safe Cladding and Insulation Now!
 - FREE TRIP – Chessington World of Adventure
 - FREE TRIP – Chessington World of Adventure
 - Freedom of Information And The Arrogance of Power
 - FUEL POVERTY ACTION AGM
 - Fuel Poverty Action – An Open Letter to the Secretary of State
 - FUEL POVERTY ACTION – BILL OF RIGHTS
 - Fuel Poverty Action – Letter To The Secretary of State
 - Further Thoughts On The Grenfell Inquiry Panel
 - GAG AND KILBURN UNEMPLOYED GROUP JOINT ACTION AT NORTH KEN JOBCENTRE.
 - GAG And Westway23 Visit the Hornton Street Circus
 - GAG Petitions RBKC for New

Dear Judith,

I take great exception to the tone and content of your email, in which you appear to accuse me, and other members of the Grenfell Action Group, of making complaints “*couched in tendentious, abusive, offensive and bullying terms*”.

You also accuse us of making “*vexatious complaints that are intended solely to delay the completion of the construction works*”.

If you have evidence to support either of these accusations kindly produce it without further delay. Otherwise I must ask that you desist from making such false and scurrilous accusations, which I note that you have copied widely in an apparent attempt to damage our reputation and undermine the legitimacy of the concerns and complaints we have quite properly raised, and will continue to raise.

The position taken by the Labour Group, and by Notting Barns ward councillors in particular, in supporting the RBKC decision to impose the hated KALC development on this totally unsuitable site was disgraceful and completely indefensible. The situation that now prevails is that the residents of Grenfell Tower have been deprived, and will remain deprived for the duration of the works, of all residential amenity space, including the small playground for pre-teens that used to stand next to Grenfell Tower, and which is now completely destroyed.

Where will the children of the Grenfell area play? Where will the toddlers of the area play? How can the elderly and infirm venture outside to take the air or to sit in quiet contemplation? There was a time when Labour Party councillors could be counted on to defend the rights of the poor and powerless. This is clearly no longer the case, at least not in Notting Barns, hence the formation of uncompromising action groups such as ours.

I presume that your accusation of “*vexatious complaints intended solely to delay completion of the construction works*” refers to our recent efforts to resist the Council’s **illegal** closure of the rights-of-way through the area now occupied by the KALC site. According to feedback I received from yesterday’s Community Forum, Leadbitters and the Council have now acknowledged the hardship these closures cause to local residents, particularly the most vulnerable, and have agreed to re-open a north/south right of way through the centre of the KALC site.

The complaints against the closures, championed by our Mr Daffarn, and to which you appear to have taken particular and very personal exception, have clearly been entirely vindicated, although the apology Mr Daffarn was seeking, on behalf of the community, has yet to materialise. If you had an ounce of integrity you too would be demanding that apology.

Your use of the terms “*abusive, offensive and bullying*” was also extended to an accusation that our members had behaved in such a manner at ward councillor’s surgeries. This accusation appears also to be directed specifically against Mr Daffarn, who assures me that he hasn’t actually attended one of your surgeries for several months, and certainly did not behave in an abusive or bullying manner when he did.

One has to wonder why, if Mr Daffarn’s behaviour was so troubling, you waited five whole

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- GREEN FOR GRENFELL DAY
- Grenfell Action Group Demands New KCTMO Investigation
- Grenfell Activist Responds To Right-wing Media Attacks
- GRENFELL ANNIVERSARY – RIDE FOR GRENFELL
- GRENFELL ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULE
- Grenfell – Leaked Report Reveals Gross Negligence
- GRENFELL – THE GREAT CELOTEX MYSTERY
- Grenfell Community Unite – A Small Victory
- Grenfell Community Unite Request Public Meeting With TMO/Rydon
- GRENFELL FIRE DOORS FAIL POLICE TESTS
- Grenfell Fire Public Inquiry Petition
- GRENFELL INQUIRY INTERIM REPORT – WHAT WE FEAR
- Grenfell Inquiry Petition – More Signatures Needed!
- GRENFELL INQUIRY PHASE ONE
- GRENFELL PETITION – PLEASE SIGN & SHARE
- GRENFELL PROTEST AND SILENT WALK
- Grenfell Residents Resist TMO Intransigence
- Grenfell Tower – From Bad to Worse
- Grenfell Tower – Propaganda, Lies and Fact
- Grenfell Tower – The Great Snail Race
- Grenfell Tower – The KCTMO Culture Of Negligence
- Grenfell Tower – The Truth Will Out
- GRENFELL TOWER FIRE
- Grenfell Tower Fire – The Forgotten Forgotten Victims
- Grenfell Tower Freedom Of Information Update
- Grenfell Tower Fun Day Remembered
- Grenfell Tower Funday
- Grenfell Tower Residents Address RBKC Scrutiny Committee
- Grenfell Tower Residents Still Waiting
- Grenfell Tower Still A Fire Risk

months before complaining to me about it. One has to wonder also why you would direct this complaint to me at all. I am not Mr Daffarn’s keeper. If you have a problem with him I suggest you sort it out with him. I know that I have never found his behaviour abusive, offensive or bullying, and I do not recognise your characterisation of him – or perhaps I might more correctly call it your character assassination of him, because I am quite sure that this is your true intention – both yours and that of Cllr Coleridge who has already insulted, falsely accused, and tried to provoke Mr Daffarn in an earlier email (to which you also refer)

Incidentally, your reaction to Cllr Coleridge’s attack on Mr Daffarn:

“TIM, FANTASTIC, THANK YOU SOOO MUCH, JUDITH”

strikes me as a particularly disgusting, odious and completely inappropriate attempt to humiliate and provoke Mr Daffarn beyond endurance.

Cllr Coleridge and yourself both occupy positions of considerable power within the Hornton Street establishment, yet you abuse your power to intimidate and threaten him, and then have to effrontery, like Goliath confronting David, to call him the bully. There is something especially odious about the way that you have conspired together to attack the character and reputation of this local man who has done no more than dare to challenge your abuse of power and unprincipled betrayal of the Lancaster West community, and to fight to defend local residents against the juggernaut of this rotten and unprincipled Tory Council.

Yours most sincerely,

Francis O’Connor

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