

Message

From: DEWIS, BEN [/O=LONDON FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENCE AUTHORITY/OU=BRIGADE HQ/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DEWISB]
Sent: 15/02/2017 10:09:55
To: 'Edward Daffarn' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Fire safety at the KCTMO

Hi Edward,

Thanks for your email, I will be liaising with the Fire Safety Team Leader for Kensington & Chelsea to forward these concerns.

Kind regards,

Ben Dewis
Fire Safety Inspecting Officer
Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham
Fire Safety Regulation
London Fire Brigade

T: [REDACTED] EXT: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]
E : BEN.DEWIS@london-fire.gov.uk



From: Edward Daffarn [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2017 10:03
To: DEWIS, BEN
Subject: Re: Fire safety at the KCTMO

Dear Ben,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns with regards to the fire safety standards relating to our landlord the Kensington and Chelsea TMO.

<https://grenfellactiongroup.wordpress.com/2016/11/20/kctmo-playing-with-fire/>



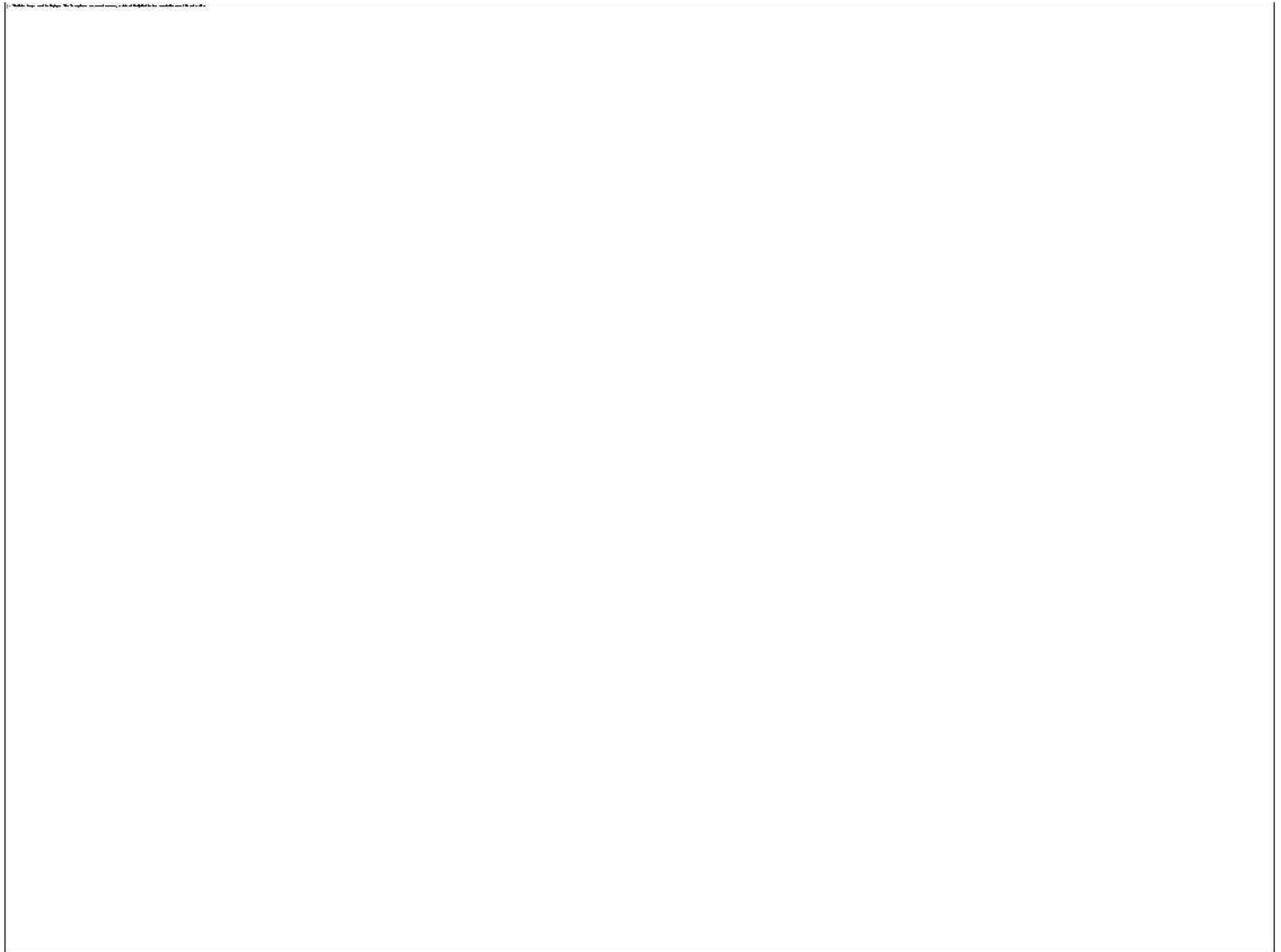
KCTMO – Playing with fire!

grenfellactiongroup.wordpress.com

It is a truly terrifying thought but the Grenfell Action Group firmly believe that only a catastrophic event will expose the ineptitude and incompetence of our landlord, the KCTMO, and bring an en...

Members of the Grenfell Action Group have serious concerns that the KCTMO has not properly notified residents in a number of tower blocks in North Kensington about what action they should take in event of fire.

After years of campaigning the KCTMO finally installed fire safety instructions in the lobby's on every floor of Grenfell Tower. I have include a draft of a blog that will appear on our website over the next week or so that confirms this action:



The Grenfell Action Group are acutely aware that we are resented and despised by the un-holy trinity that controls the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, namely, the Council and their quislings at the KCTMO and the Westway Trust. What the powers that be cannot deny, however, is that they not only read our blog but are forced to act as a consequence of the issues that we raise.

The most recent example of the Grenfell Action Group's influence can be evidenced by the fact that the KCTMO have finally responded to our long standing concerns about the lack of fire safety advice provided to their tenants and leaseholders. The Grenfell Action Group has a long history of raising concerns about the almost criminally lax manner in which the KCTMO treats fire safety issues and we are on record as stating that it is our belief that a serious and catastrophic incident will be the undoing of this mini mafia who pose as a bona fide organisation responsible for the smooth running of the RBKC'S social housing.

In a recent blog concerning the aforementioned issues, published on 20th November, the Grenfell Action Group pointed out that:

"In the last twenty years and despite the terrifying power surge incident in 2013 and recent fire at Adair Tower, the residents of Grenfell Tower have received no proper fire safety instructions from the KCTMO. Residents were informed by a temporary notice stuck in the lift and one announcement in a recent regeneration newsletter that they should remain in their flats in the event of fire. There are not and never have been any instructions posted in the Grenfell Tower noticeboard or on individual floors as to how residents should act in the event of a fire".

<https://grenfellactiongroup.wordpress.com/2016/11/20/kctmo-playing-with-fire/>



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Following the Grenfell Action Group's persistence in raising these concerns the KCTMO have finally responded by installing fire safety instructions in the entrance hallway to Grenfell Tower and outside the lifts on every individual floor of our building (see photo above). It was past time that the health and safety concerns of residents were taken seriously by the KCTMO and it is a sad fact that our landlord only seems capable of acting in a responsible manner as a result of continual badgering from our blog.

An inspection of some of the other local tower blocks under the management of the KCTMO, namely, Whitestable House, Dixon House, Markland House and Frinstead House shows that the KCTMO have failed to install similar fire safety instructions in these buildings. Let's hope that the KCTMO have a robust fire safety plan and have notified residents what to do in event of fire.

Over the six years that the Grenfell Action Group has been in existence we are proud to be able to claim that we have made a material difference to the community that we serve. We believe that we are a running sore on the face of the amateur politicians who inhabit the corridors of the Town Hall in Hornton Street and that the direct and challenging approach of the Grenfell Action Group has put to shame the "scraps from the rich man's table" type of politics pursued for many years by the RBKC Labour Group.

We believe that we can quantify the impact of our campaigning (either alone or in partnership with other local stakeholders) by our contributions to the following outcomes:

- Securing a grant of £10,000 from RBKC and producing a coherent and robust opposition to the loss of our residential amenity by working with local residents and Planning Aid for London
- Securing a £10 million investment from RBKC for the Grenfell Tower Improvement Works.
- Securing new double glazed windows for residents in Verity Close.
- Successfully lobbying RBKC to temporarily re-open local "rights of way" after they were illegally closed by the Council.
- Instigating an investigation by the Independent Local Government Ombudsman into RBKC's conduct regarding the long term closure of Station Walk.
- Securing the provision of 6 construction apprenticeships by the Academy/Sport's Centre building contractor.
- Lobbying the Westway Trust and RBKC to take action to address poor air quality at the KALC replacement sports pitches at the Westway Sports Centre.
- Securing an assurance from the Aldridge Foundation that they would pay the London Living Wage to all employees at the Kensington Academy and promote local employment opportunities.
- Organising the "Mock the Opera" and "Public not Private" demonstrations in 2015 and 2016 respectively.
- Exposing the RBKC's private business deal with the Notting Hill Prep School that has seen our much loved North Kensington library pass from public use to private.
- Influencing positive changes to the RBKC "Decant Policy" and obtaining transparency by securing publication of the Silchester Estate "Financial Viability Assessment" through a protracted Freedom of Information application.

In our view the Grenfell Action Group has never criticised the Council, its members or its officers, inappropriately or without justification, and the uncompromising style and content of our blog is simply the result of our ongoing attempts to combat the oppression we face from this powerful un-holy trinity of Council, TMO and Westway Trust. These three have repeatedly sought to marginalise us, claiming that we are irrelevant and do not legitimately represent the Lancaster West community.

There is little doubt, however, that they follow our blog closely, ever mindful of our ability to undermine their often clumsy propaganda efforts. The Council has even attempted on occasions to silence us by threatening legal action for defamation. However, they have never followed through with these threats, having soon realised that we always source our content carefully, and frequently from the Council's own public records.

For our part, we fully intend to continue our efforts to inform the North Kensington community and to represent their interests, and those of other mismanaged, threatened and besieged communities elsewhere in the borough, and will not be bought off or fobbed off, intimidated or silenced by the Council, the KCTMO the Westway Trust, or other RBKC collaborators.

Please can the Grenfell Action Group request that the London Fire Brigade ensure that the KCTMO have meet their obligations with regards fire safety in the following tower blocks in North Kensington and confirm this fact to us in writing? The blocks that we have particular concerns about are Whitestable House, Dixon House, Markland House and Frinstead House.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Kind regards,

Edward Daffarn

Vice Chair- Grenfell Action Group