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Sent: 31 December 2015 15:30
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: CllrR.Atkinson@rbkc.gov.uk; Cllr.Lasharie@rbkc.gov.uk; Cllr.Press@rbkc.gov.uk; Cllr.Bakhtiar@rbkc.gov.uk
Subject: Grenfell Tower Residents' Petition to the Council
Attachments: Grenfell Tower Scrutiny Report Jan 2016 A13.rtf

Dear Grenfell Tower Resident

I am writing to let you know that the petition from residents about the Grenfell Tower refurbishment project is being considered by the Council's housing and property scrutiny committee on Wednesday 6 January in Committee Room 1 at Kensington Town Hall. The meeting starts at 6.30 p.m.

The petition stated:

"We, the under-signed residents of Grenfell Tower, ask the Chairman of the Housing and Property Scrutiny Committee to undertake an urgent scrutiny of the TMO and Rydon's management of the refurbishment project currently underway at Grenfell Tower. Time and again residents' views have been ignored or down played. Despite interventions from our MP, Victoria Borwick, and our ward councillors, our day-to-day concerns are belittled and sidelined. While we recognise that, once completed, the Tower will – at long last – be fit for the 21st Century, during this process we have had to endure living conditions that at times have been intolerable.

"We understand that the Council will be commencing a major programme of regeneration throughout the borough and that this may involve refurbishment rather than demolition of some other tower blocks. In view of this, it is vital that all the lessons from the Grenfell Tower project are learned, so that the terrible daily living conditions inflicted upon us for so long are not replicated elsewhere. As part of this investigation, the residents of Grenfell Tower ask that their views and experiences be canvassed and included in the scrutiny report."

It was signed by 60 residents, representing 51 of the 120 households in Grenfell Tower. (I believe that only 117 flats are currently occupied.)

The report going to the Committee about what has been happening at Grenfell Tower is attached for your information. This information has been supplied by the TMO to the Council and is likely to form the basis of the response to the residents' petition. The meeting on 6 January is open to the public and all Grenfell Tower residents are welcome to attend. The Chairman of the Committee has invited a representative from the Grenfell Tower Compact to speak to the Committee for five minutes about the problems residents have been encountering.

The TMO Board is also going to consider the petition at its meeting on Monday 4 January 2016. Unfortunately this discussion will take place in the confidential part of the agenda, so Grenfell Tower residents who are TMO members will not be permitted to be present for that discussion.

In view of the short time frame, I am only able to send this information out to residents for whom I have an e-mail address, so can you please share it with your neighbours.

I can make myself available to meet residents this coming Saturday 2 January 2016 in the cafe at the Kensington Leisure Centre if anyone wishes to discuss any matters with me –but please let me know if you do wish to meet, so that I can arrange to be there. I would suggest around 11 am.

I would be particularly interested to hear from you about how you think things could be done better in future. It is clear from the Council's "regeneration" proposals that people living in other tower blocks will also undergo major refurbishment works whilst they are in residence and your experiences and suggestions for improvement will be very valuable for them.

Kind regards.

Councillor Judith Blakeman

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
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