
From: J BLAKEMAN <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 August 2014 11:00
To: Judith Blakeman
Subject: Fwd: RE: Grenfell Walk Ramp at Lancaster West Estate
Attachments: image001.jpg

-----Original message-----

From : pmaddison@kctmo.org.uk
Date : 17/07/2014 - 18:02 (GMTDT)
To : Cllr.Blakeman@rbkc.gov.uk
Cc : sjevans@kctmo.org.uk, clwilliams@kctmo.org.uk, ksingh@kctmo.org.uk, srumble@kctmo.org.uk, Laura.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk, rblack@kctmo.org.uk
Subject : RE: Grenfell Walk Ramp at Lancaster West Estate

Dear Cllr Blakeman

I am writing in response to your correspondence relating to access arrangements to the finger blocks on Lancaster West.

The removal of the stepped ramp to the walkway has long been part of the plans for the works to Grenfell Tower and we have consulted residents and local stakeholders on the proposal over a prolonged period.

The stepped walkway did not provide level access for disabled residents. There remains stepped access to ground floor level via the existing staircase and there is also level access via the walkway to Latimer Road.

If individual residents have specific needs relating to access to the blocks, then they should contact Siobhan Rumble at the Estate Office and we will ensure that those needs are considered, and addressed, where possible. One option would be to give fob access within the finger blocks, however, this will only be considered in exceptional circumstances as the current access arrangements have been put in place in response to the security concerns of all residents.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you in more detail. I have also agreed to consider the options for improving the decorative state of the staircase and consider the installation of mirrors to improve visibility, as you suggested at Scrutiny Committee.

Kiran Singh would also be happy to meet with you on site to review arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Peter


Peter Maddison

Director of Assets and Regeneration



t: [REDACTED]
m: [REDACTED]

a: The Network Hub, 292a Kensal Road, London, W10 5BE

 Before printing, please think about the environment

From: Cllr.Blakeman@rbkc.gov.uk [mailto:Cllr.Blakeman@rbkc.gov.uk]

Sent: 17 July 2014 13:36

To: Robert Black; Laura.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk; Jonathan.Bore@rbkc.gov

Cc: Peter Maddison; Sacha Jevans; Claire Williams; CllrR.Atkinson@rbkc.gov.uk; Cllr.Lasharie@rbkc.gov.uk; Kiran Singh; Siobhan Rumble

Subject: Grenfell Walk Ramp at Lancaster West Estate

Importance: High

Dear Mr. Black

A resident has received the reply below from Ms. Williams that, as written, suggests that some disabled residents will be permanently confined to their homes and unable to get to the outside world. This is a problem that should have been picked up at the planning stage but we have all somehow missed it. We did of course also suggest that a lift be installed to enable residents to get up to Grenfell Walk from ground level, but this was rejected at an early stage in the planning process.

Cllr. Lasharie and I are attending the Lancaster West Residents' Association AGM this evening, where this problem is bound to be raised.

Is there any comfort that we can give residents?

Kind regards.

Cllr. Judith Blakeman

From Claire Williams:

I have had a look at the documentation I have, and the removal of the ramp is mentioned by our architect in a report of August 2013. Basically the design for the public realm (the area around Grenfell) was determined by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's planning department. The planning department issued guidance documents for the development of the area around Grenfell Tower (including the Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre). This was based on consultation events held by RBKC in 2010. The guidance aimed to improve the pedestrian (and visual) links across through the site. The removal of the stepped ramp, and the levelling of access around Grenfell Tower is seen as key to establishing East to West movement through the site and improving public access generally.

Effectively the planning department aimed to tidy up the whole area and provide a cohesive plan for the pedestrian areas around Grenfell - rather than the piecemeal layout that existed previously. I don't have a date of their guidance note, but I would suspect it would be 2011. Maybe some residents will remember the consultation held at the time?

There is no plan to replace the ramp.

Claire Williams
Project Manager

t: [REDACTED]
m: [REDACTED]
a: The Network Hub, 292a Kensal Road, London, W10 5BEP

-----Original message-----

From : rblack@kctmo.org.uk

Date : 14/07/2014 - 15:22 (UTC)

To : [REDACTED] Laura.Johnson@rbkc.gov.uk, jonathan.bore@rbkc.gov.uk

Cc : [REDACTED] Cllr.Lasharie@rbkc.gov.uk, sjevans@kctmo.org.uk,
jwray@kctmo.org.uk

Subject : RE: Grenfell Walk Ramp at Lancaster West Estate

Dear Councillor Blakeman

Thank you for your e-mail and enquiry on this subject.

I have spoken to Laura Johnson today and agreed that Peter Maddison and Sacha Jevans will be visiting the scheme today to review the points raised in your enquiry and Janice Wray who covers H&S for the Company will be visiting tomorrow. Once they have completed this review we will respond to the points raised and to look at what the alternatives are. As both Sacha and Peter are leading on the regeneration of the Tower it is more appropriate for them to make this assessment.

Best wishes

Robert

Robert Black
Chief Executive

t: [REDACTED] m: [REDACTED]

w: www.kctmo.org.uk

a: 346 Kensington High Street, London, W14 8NS

From: J BLAKEMAN [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]
Sent: 13 July 2014 21:06
To: Laura Johnson; Robert Black; jonathan.bore@rbkc.gov.uk
Cc: Robert Atkinson; Cllr.Lasharie@rbkc.gov.uk
Subject: Grenfell Walk Ramp at Lancaster West Estate

Dear Mr. Johnson, Mr. Bore and Mr. Black

I am writing to all three of you because I do not know who can deal with this problem.

Since the ramp has been removed from the side of Grenfell Tower that led to the ground from Grenfell Walk, residents with impaired mobility who live in parts of the finger blocks of Testerton Walk and Barandon Walk are now effectively confined to their homes.

As we have indicated on numerous occasions, the staircase that leads up to the Grenfell Walk walkway is not suitable for people with impaired mobility or who may have pushchairs with small children. Previously they could get down to the ground floor via the ramp in question. Now they have to take an extremely tortuous route all the way round to Latimer Road station and then back again. While this is possible, albeit very inconvenient and time-consuming, for parents with children in pushchairs, it is quite beyond the ability of older people.

Several residents who live in the affected parts of Testerton Walk and Barandon Walk have asked for key fobs that will enable them to leave the blocks by the southern exits, but these have been denied to them on the grounds that this would jeopardise security. However, this would be the obvious short term solution for them.

This does beg the question as to what other alternative arrangements can be made – and whether, when and how the ramp will be replaced so that these residents are no longer trapped in their homes. Indeed, one resident has been told that the ramp is not to be replaced and is in great distress as a result. This needs to be clarified.

The problem is very difficult to describe on paper, so I would invite you all to come and take a trial walk with Cllr. Lasharie and me – taking with you a pushchair containing objects that weigh around the weight of a toddler - so that you can find out for yourselves how impossible it is to get out via the staircase.

We received a lot of complaints about this problem at last Saturday's councillors' surgery – from residents with small children and also from others on behalf of older people who could not come themselves.

Kind regards.

Cllr. Judith Blakeman

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
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