

24 June 2017

Dear Eleanor

I have just held my scheduled two hour councillor's surgery. I will send each issue raised with me to you separately so that you can forward them as appropriate - and can you please also ensure that I receive a reply that I can pass on to the resident or group concerned.

From a resident of Bramley House:

We have asked for air purifiers for all our flats to clear the terrible toxic air in them. We have not received a reply.

This seems like a good idea to me - can this be actioned?

Cllr Judith Blakeman

Dear Eleanor

From a member of the Board of the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation

The Foundation is being asked by residents to pay for representation at the upcoming public enquiry and their legal costs should they wish to take action against the Council and/or the TMO. The Charity Commission forbids this. What arrangements are in place to ensure that residents have access to free and good legal representation? The government has given a commitment with regard to the Public Inquiry, but not how it will be provided.

Cllr Judith Blakeman

Dear Eleanor

From Samia Badani, Chair of the Bramley House Residents' Association:

There are a number of lone Muslim women both from Grenfell Tower and who were evacuated from other homes. They need a safe, women-only space because they are too afraid to go to the authorities at the designated respite centres.

Samia points out that the Council has an office at No. 1 Waynflete Square (which was previously a social services office and before that a GP surgery). She suggests that this be opened and run informally for these women, staffed by someone from

the mosque and someone from a local church. For some of these women, Al-Manaar is also too far away for them to attend in view of their age and/or disability.

Cllr Judith Blakeman

Dear Eleanor

From Samia Badani, Chair of the Bramley House Residents' Association

Can the TMO please call an emergency Area Review Board meeting for the associations representing the immediate area? Residents have many issues to raise with the TMO and when they ring the Council they are referred to the TMO, which is unhelpful as the TMO is barely functioning at the moment.

They also want an answer as to why the TMO hand delivered insensitive letters threatening people's tenancies after the fire.

Bramley House residents also received an "apology" that the TMO could not now survey Bramley House this week as a part of the Silchester "Red Line" area regeneration plans because of the fire. So Bramley House residents continue also to have the Damocletian Sword of this regeneration hanging over them. Not just the trauma of seeing their neighbours immolated and hearing the screams of children, they continue to face the loss of their homes - and for some no replacement home - under this regeneration scheme. The Council have only said that the regeneration "has been parked for the moment", generating further uncertainty for everyone.

A longer term but important question - can arrangements be made for all the Residents' Associations and Resident Compacts of the estates and blocks run by the TMO to meet in private to discuss the TMO's attitudes and the way they have been treated by the TMO over the years in order to help prepare their evidence for the Public Inquiry?

Cllr Judith Blakeman

Dear Eleanor

And finally an enquiry from me.

Grainger plc. is currently developing 32 residential units immediately behind the Kensington Leisure Centre for the private rental market. Can these flats, once completed, instead now be bought - perhaps by the City of London Corporation, as RBKC would probably refuse to consider this - to provide permanent social housing

for displaced residents?

I have no doubt that when Grenfell Tower is demolished, this will displace a number of households who would like to remain within the area with their families and local support networks close by. The Grainger development is likely to be completed at about the same time and would be suitable to offer to some of those displaced households.

Cllr Judith Blakeman