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**Sent**: 10/03/2013 12:28:28

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**Subject**: The Grenfell Tower Regeneration Project must start NOW in tandem with Kensington Academy Leisure Centre as

promised.

## Dear Councillor Coleridge,

The Grenfell Tower Leaseholder's Association and the residents of Grenfell Tower believe that you as our Cabinet Member for housing and property, and our Local councillors for RBKC are the major architects of the "Towering achievement at Grenfell". We would like the ambition to be realised to its maximum potential, in line with the KALC project if not before that.

We have previously expressed our heartfelt gratitude for all your efforts. However, we feel that it is important that you are informed about some of our concerns about the improvement works at Grenfell Tower. We are very grateful that "during such challenging economic times, the council invested almost £50m and £9.4m (for Grenfell Tower) in the area and it is sure to leave a long-lasting legacy for the future generations". We are also relieved to know that " the Grenfell Tower regeneration project will be carried out by the same team (Leadbitter) that is handling the academy and leisure centre programme. So therefore, we see no excuses for coming up with delaying tactics to prolong the work on Grenfell Tower.

## "The Grenfell Tower Regeneration Project must start now in tandem with Kensington Academy Leisure Centre as promised by the TMO not another update through newsletter in April 2013"

We, the residents of Grenfell Tower, are very concerned with the progress of the regeneration project and scheduled planning application for Grenfell Tower for the following reasons:

- The Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre newsletter Summer 2012 (almost nine months ago) confirmed on page 11, "Last month the council's cabinet formally approved £6m worth of investment for improvements to Grenfell Tower on the Lancaster West Estate", but we are yet to be informed of progress.
- 2. In the Royal Borough Kensington and Chelsea local newspaper winter 2012 NO. 175 on page 3 we quote "Towering achievement at Grenfell" In May 2012 the council's Cabinet approved £6m worth of investment for improvements to the tower as part of the academy and leisure centre plans. When combined with a contribution from the Tenant Management organisation (TMO), it means a total of £9.4 million will be spent on providing improvements including external cladding to provide an

- effective rain screen, double glazing and new controlled heating and Water systems. **Clir Timothy Coleridge, Cabinet Member for housing**, said: Not only are we building a new academy and leisure centre for North Kensington but we are also making significant improvement to Grenfell Tower, its facilities and the surrounding area.
- 3. On 22nd July 2012 the newsletter circulated by the project manager- Paul Dunkerton, Siobhan Rumble Lancaster West- Area Manager & Mark Anderson- Director of Assets & Regeneration to confirm to the residents that, "ideally we wish to deliver the regeneration of Grenfell Tower in tandem with the new Academy and Leisure centre.
  - To ensure we are on schedule a planning application for Grenfell Tower will need to be submitted by the end of August.
  - The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea planning Department would need approximately 10 weeks to consider the designs, proposed for the regeneration project.
  - Lead bitter, the appointed contractor anticipates starting the works to Grenfell Tower early in 2013. Additional updates will be proved throughout the project."
- 4. On 22nd October 2012 a letter to the tenants of Grenfell Tower was sent by Mr Paul Dunkerton the Project manager to inform the residents that, "this planning application has now been amended and resubmitted to reflect some changes to the scheme at lower levels"
- 5. On 20th December 2012 another newsletter of Grenfell Tower regeneration project was dropped written by the Project Manager- Mr. Paul Dunkerton & Area manager Siobhan Rumble to notify us that, "it is our intention to display the planning application design in the project room next to the Grenfell Tower reception. This display will be available for residents to view throughout the planning application period. "As residents will be aware planning application for Grenfell Tower regeneration project (GTRP) has been submitted to RBKC planning department.
  - "The Project team is working closely with RBKC planning department to ensure that resident wishes are incorporated in any design changes and the outcome of this process will be shared in the New Year". We are beginning of March 2013 and we the residents of Grenfell Tower are yet to receive an update or outcome of planning application for GTRP (Grenfell Tower Regeneration Project) or when the improvement work is likely to start. But in relation to KALC, the work has been well under way since December 2012 and the industrial noises, pollution, inconvenience has ensued.
- 6. It was understood by most of the residents and quoting from the newsletter, "ideally we wish to deliver the regeneration of Grenfell Tower in tandem with the new Academy and leisure centre". If the KCTMO, as a tenant led organisation do really care for the wellbeing of the residents of Grenfell Tower and the surrounding areas, they would realise that construction site has directly impacted our lives not only in terms of convenience but noise.
- 7. The KCTMO should have begun replacing the windows of Grenfell Tower before or during (i.e. now) the work. In tandem even defeats the point because we will be suffering from noise disturbance. It is a quite worrying development for the residents of Grenfell Tower, although it has come to be expected that the KCTMO say one thing on paper, but deliver the completely opposite. We the residents believe that KCTMO must take responsibilities by delaying the regeneration project unnecessarily.
- 8. We understand that it is a complicated project, but there should not be delays in the planning process considering the TMO/EMB have been managing the building for more than two decades. In relation to heating and hot water system at Grenfell Tower, local stakeholders including EMB have raised issues and discussed in detail with you what needs to be done, nothing here should take them by surprise. We believe it is the traditional use of delaying tactics by the TMO. But we really hope and will put pressure on the TMO for the money being invested is used transparently and in the most efficient way.

The residents of Grenfell Tower do not believe that the planning application for the improvement of Grenfell Tower is more complicated than the KALC application. We would like the assurance that work on Grenfell Tower will begin very soon.

## Best Wishes

Tunde Awoderu
Vice chairman
On behalf of the
The Grenfell Tower Leaseholder's Association and residents of GT

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The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

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