

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission (GTMC) Meeting

27 February 2025

Attendees

Memorial Commission

Thelma Stober (Chair)
Paul Boateng

Community Representatives

(Bereaved representatives)	(Survivor representatives)	(Lancaster West Estate and community representatives)
Sandra Ruiz	Mohammed Rasoul	Susan Al Safadi
Paulos Tekle	Abraham Abebe	Andrea Newton
Hanan Wahabi		Samia Badani
		Abbas Dadou

Apologies:

Nabil Choucair
Hanan Cherbika
Hassan Hassan
Adel Chaoui

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Secretariat: 7 individuals

Other

Stephanie Edwards, Independent Design Adviser
Peter Neal, Independent Landscape Design Adviser
Jane Duncan, Independent Architectural Adviser
Camilla Sheldon, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

Meeting purpose

The sixty fifth meeting of the Memorial Commission, to discuss the design team selection process, next steps for the Commission, and an update from MHCLG.

Opening

- A one-minute silence was held at the start of the meeting.
- It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
- Thelma Stober opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance, particularly Samia Badani and Abbas Dadou, who are new community representatives joining the Memorial Commission's refreshed mandate.
- No conflicts of interests were declared.
- The secretariat presented the minutes from the January meeting for approval, along with an update on the risk register and action log.

Agenda item 1: Tower decision update

- Thelma noted the impact that the Deputy Prime Minister's (DPM) recent decision to carefully take down the Tower has had on the Grenfell community.
- A community representative raised a concern that there may be a public misperception that the Commission had a role in the Tower decision, which was the responsibility of and taken by the DPM. MHCLG needs to make it clear it was the DPM who made the decision as part of her responsibility.
- A community representative noted that they felt the question of which 'elements' of the Tower could be retained for use in the future memorial, and how this would happen, had not yet been clearly answered by the DPM.
- Another representative raised concerns that this offer from the DPM pre-empted the design process on retaining elements from the Tower.
- The Commission discussed the communication process around the decision announcement. They felt the communications were poor and that not all families received key information throughout, and about, the DPM's consultation sessions.

Agenda item 2: MHCLG update

- Camilla Sheldon gave an update from MHCLG. She described the DPM's consultation process ahead of making the decision, and how the DPM listened to a range of views taking into account the engineers report.
- Camilla referred to the three-step process for potentially retaining elements of the Tower as laid out in the Commission's second report: 1) whether an element is technically viable to retain, 2) if it is possible to conserve it once it has been retained, and 3) if its inclusion in the memorial is acceptable to the community.
- A community representative said MHCLG and the DPM need to be clearer about what the options are and what the Grenfell community can influence.
- The Commission discussed the DPM's decision making process and the reception of the decision itself with Camilla. Camilla noted the clear message from the community of the importance of height in the future memorial.
- The community representatives asked if the DPM can provide the number of bereaved and survivors who were engaged in the consultations and how this fed into the DPM's decision.
- Lord Paul Boateng noted the importance of a meeting between the Commission and the DPM as soon as possible to discuss the questions from the Commission on the decision on the Tower
- A member of the Secretariat suggested the Commission submits any questions they may have in advance, to ensure a productive meeting with the DPM.

ACTION: MHCLG to take the Commission's questions back to the DPM and work with the Secretariat to arrange a meeting with the Commission and the DPM as soon as possible.

Agenda item 3: Design team selection process update

- The design advisers gave an update on the design team selection process, including the briefing with the shortlisted teams and the Commission which took place on 24 February. They noted the high quality of conversations at this briefing, the positive feedback received from the teams and felt it was a productive and encouraging session.
- They noted the design team selection process is designed to ensure the selected team will be best placed to work with the community to arrive at the final design, and that the process has community engagement built in throughout to ascertain which shortlisted team understands and can work successfully with the Grenfell community to design a future memorial.

Agenda item 4: Secretariat update

- Thelma noted plans for a meeting between the Commission and the DPM as soon as possible.
- Lord Paul Boateng noted the need for a clear commitment from the DPM in supporting the Commission's aims and processes.

AOB

- The secretariat updated the Commission on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the updated version with comments from the Commission, has been shared with MHCLG who will give an update on the MOU at the next Commission meeting.