

February 2022

Dear residents

We hope that you have been keeping well during the ongoing challenges of the past months. As we begin a new year, we're getting in touch to tell you:

- What we've heard in the last two years, from families, former residents and local residents
- Our plans for the coming months
- How you can share your views with us and keep in touch.

Last September we paused our work following media speculation about the future of the Grenfell Tower. This was not an easy decision, but it was important for us to get answers from the government about the tower's future before we could continue. We met with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP, to explain our concerns and to request commitments from the government. You can read the letter we sent to Michael Gove after our meeting, and his response, here: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/resuming.

As a result of the commitments we were given, we have ended our pause. We are now continuing the important work of capturing your views on a lasting memorial to make sure that Grenfell is never forgotten.

What have we heard so far?

We have had conversations with 67 bereaved individuals and 27 former residents. We have also heard from around 1,800 members of the local community, including over 450 Lancaster West estate residents. We have been asking which words reflect what you want from a future memorial, and we have used these to develop an early vision for it:

*The Grenfell memorial will be at its heart a **peaceful** place.*

*It will provide a space for **reflection** and **remembrance** of those that lost their lives, of **why** this tragedy happened and **the need for justice**.*

*The memorial will **reflect** the Grenfell **community** and the **love** within it; evoking a sense of **hope** and **positivity** that **remembers the past** and **looks forward to the future**.*

*It will be a place for bereaved, survivors and members of the local community to **come together**.*

*A **respectful** and **lasting** memorial that **honours** those that lost their lives and their families, the survivors of the fire and members of the local community.*

We have started to share this early, emerging vision with you in meetings, working with you to understand how it should be reflected in a physical memorial. So far, bereaved families and former residents have given similar views, as have Lancaster West estate residents and others in the local community. In these early conversations we have heard* a preference for:

- a memorial garden (expressed by 66% of bereaved families and former residents, and 60% of members of the local community)
- artwork (expressed by 30% of bereaved families and former residents, and 31% of members of the local community)
- a built memorial that provides a peaceful and reflective space (expressed by 19% of bereaved families and former residents, and 5% of members of the local community)

Other ideas you shared were:

- that the names of people who sadly lost their lives should be included – for example, in a plaque, display, photos and stories (43% of bereaved and survivors referenced this, and 23% of the local community)
- a place to sit and reflect (49% of bereaved and survivors referenced this, and 31% of the local community)
- the presence of water (29% of bereaved and survivors referenced this, and 12% of the local community)
- early views about whether to include parts of the Tower in the memorial.

We have heard that any memorial must support lasting change, and educate our communities and society as a whole. Also, that the long-term ownership and maintenance of the memorial must be protected so that it stands as a reminder for generations to come. It is vital that we get this right. We will continue to ask more questions about both of these important areas in our future conversations with you.

Who we have spoken to

Over the last two years, we are really grateful to have had the opportunity to speak to many of you. We want to do whatever we can to support you to give your views, while we also understand and respect that some people might not feel ready to speak about this. Please see the different ways you can contact us enclosed with this letter. You are at the heart of the memorial process and it is important that you feel able to share your views in a way that is as comfortable as possible for you and your family.

What are we doing next?

We are working hard to capture everything we have heard from you in our interim report. We are hoping to publish this in May and will directly share it with you before it is published. It will also include our next steps for this year, during which there will be plenty of time and opportunities to speak with us about your ideas and views. (For further details see our timeline at: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/our-journey.)

We have enclosed our calendar of upcoming opportunities to speak to us. We are continuing our monthly face-to-face 'drop-ins', online meetings and themed meetings. These details are also available on our website at: bit.ly/gtmcdates.

We recognise the responsibility of our role. As both your community representatives and as Memorial Commission co-chairs, we are honoured to be working with you on something so important. We look forward to hearing more of your views as we take the next steps together

to agree a fitting memorial so that Grenfell is never forgotten.

Sending peace and best wishes to you and your families.

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Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission co-chairs