



Grenfell Network Group

15 December 2020, 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Amelia Mustapha (AM)	SMART
Clare Richards (CR)	The ClementJames Centre
Emma Cohen (EC)	Open Age
Joe Batty (JB)	KCSC
Judith Blakeman (JBI)	Notting Dale councillor
Local Resident1	Notting Dale resident
Local Resident2	
Lucy Knight (LK)	Latimer Community Art Therapy
Michael Ashe (MA)	Volunter Centre Kensington and Chelsea
Stephen Duckworth (SD)	Notting Hill Methodist Church
Victoria Steward Todd (VST)	K&C Foundation
Zina Serageldin	KCSC (Minute taker)

Welcome and introductions – Joe Batty (JB)

JB thanked everyone for attending this online meeting.

He explained that the last Grenfell Network Group (GNG) meeting had taken place in person prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. A virtual setting is not a format most people wish to engage with nor is it conducive to spontaneity, however under current restrictions this format was chosen to allow meetings to continue.

What if Christmas - Amelia Mustapha (AM), SMART

AM introduced What If Christmas. As SMART would not be able to open up for Christmas this year a group effort started to respond and try to seek out people who needed food presents and cheering up. The idea being for everyone to be able to give what they could and take what they need.

£140,000 has been raised with nearly 4000 bags going out, including presents for children and food for families. A touring choir will go around selected sheltered housing projects, people are being encourage to sing from their door. Bags will be going to vulnerable older people, 2500 families identified as being on free school meals, vulnerable adults and migrants in hotel with no access to hot food or clothing.

JBI mentioned that ward councillors received an application for city living funds but no one had spoken to them to explain what it was about, so funding was not approved. AM thanked JB for the feedback which she would pass on to the community engagement team. Alternative funding had been found.

AM explained that SMART hope to use the data gathered to look at systemic changes that are needed so that this project is not needed again.

When asked if volunteers were needed AM replies that volunteers were needed for deliveries in the North of the borough especially any that could drive.

www.whatifchristmas.com

Covid-19 Response how can we meet?

JB asked those present to discuss how this group can meet in the most effective way. Any ideas would be welcome especially ways to make meetings more accessible and encourage more people to attend.

JB has asked for feedback from attendees but has not received any response.

MA feedback that topic-based events have attracted larger numbers. The agenda and how important it is to people tend to influence their attendance.

K&C Foundation have done similarly and found that 7pm meetings seem to work best. Speakers that people may not have access to otherwise including Q&A sessions attracts attendance.

Local Resident1 commented in the chat that a distanced meeting held outside Bay20 was very successful and that Zoom is better than nothing.

Local Resident1 felt that the answer to this question should come from those who are not in this meeting.

The consensus was that a single-issue agenda with speakers and an opportunity for questions was a good idea.

ACTION: JB will send out an updated bulletin to the whole group asking these questions again.

Discussion; Democracy in a time of crisis - how can virtual deliver?

Grenfell Assembly

There was frank discussion on this meeting held on the 18th of November 2020.

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell-response-and-recovery/grenfell-community-assembly>

Participants of the GNG who were in attendance please ask Joe Batty for fuller minutes should you require them.

Grenfell Recovery Programme.

GRENFELL RECOVERY RESOURCING FRAMEWORK

- Please note table pages 10-17. Follow the links through this [article for details](#). Key outcomes, key commitments and time scales and key milestone have already been predetermined.
- The paper seems to be setting up steering groups with a timetable for key decisions in March.
- Importance is place on the Grenfell Assembly outcomes.
- A community-based provision for adults being managed by Together for Grenfell is mentioned in the paper.
 - JBI noted that she will be trying to find out more about Together for Grenfell which is unknown to this group.
 - LK agreed that questions she has been asking about parameters set, members and connections with Grenfell Health and Wellbeing which have yet to be answered.
 - This might be more divisive than helpful. There is concern that focus will be on council estates rather than all tenants and resident associations (including private ones) in the area affected.
- The feeling is that the Council do want to engage with residents but don't know how and continue to speak to the same groups.
- Recovery is meant to be resident led. Elizabeth Campbell promised MHCLG that there would be a review of the strategy with resident input. Residents feel they have had no input into any of the recovery strategy from draft stage to date.
- Departments within the Council seem to be slowly learning about the Charter for Public Participation but seem to be operating autonomously, there is no framework for implementation in place. Timeframes in place appear to override community requests and needs.
- VSO groups (including faith groups) are taken as a proxy for the community but not the actual residents. The Community Engagement team are not engaging with all groups that fall within MHCLG's definition of immediate community. There is a network of residents associations – The Residents Advisory Board. They have been given a list of all RA's but still no engagement from the team.
- Consultation with resident led groups especially those who have gathered data from residents are not taking place. This is especially frustrating with designing future strategies.

Working to make the Grenfell assembly effective might not be the best way forward. A move back to the suggestions for a delegated decision-making process in North Kensington that was put forward to the Council in 2018 might now be an option.

ACTION: JB asked all present to please e-mail concrete ideas to him about what is not being done right, what needs to be done. This might then be able to be used as a tool to get people to come along to this meeting.

AOB

ACTION: Next meeting will be set for the start of the year to discuss frequency of the meetings.

Meeting chat

- There was a free ranging discussion about the Christmas offer of “WhatifChristmas”. Queries about funding, who is involved, who is delivering it etc. AM said “K and C Foundation have done the fundraising and are providing governance, VCKC have helped recruit lots of volunteers, Lucy at LCAT was instrumental in making the choirs happen and Joe has been amazing at getting the word out. thank you everyone.”
- Also, a discussion on the previous outdoors meeting of the GNG and the downside noise, lack of amplification. The response was generally favourable. Local Resident1 said “The distanced meeting we had outside Bay20 was very successful. Zoom is better than nothing though.”
- There was significant discussion about the Grenfell Assembly this chat is captured in the notes and is available to participants on request. This also covered discussions on NHS and other agencies attempts at co-production, co-design and participation.

As with the item further up this report please contact Joe Batty for a more fulsome report if you were in attendance.