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About your **North Ken News**

North Ken News is a dedicated newsletter for North Kensington communities produced by Kensington and Chelsea Council.

Have you got news for us?

We are always on the lookout for good news stories, whether they are about an event you are running, a local hero who is working wonders in your community or a programme or course that local residents could benefit from.

If you would like to get in touch with an idea or story, please email northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Tell us what you think

We're interested in hearing your feedback about North Ken News. We want to produce a newsletter which you enjoy reading and you find useful, so please let us know what you'd like to see more of. Email us at northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk

Covid-19

Information on our Coronavirus response and guidance is correct at the time of going to press. For the latest updates, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus

Staying in touch

There are other ways to keep up to date with borough-wide news as well as news and announcements from Kensington and Chelsea Council.

-  [@RBKC](https://twitter.com/RBKC)  www.facebook.com/royalborough
-  www.nextdoor.co.uk
-  www.instagram.com/kensingtonandchelseacouncil

For updates on Grenfell

-  [@GrenfellUpdates](https://twitter.com/GrenfellUpdates)
-  www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell

-  To stay up to date with the latest news and events sign up to our newsletter mailing list, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search K&C Life

If you would like to opt out of receiving North Ken News or would prefer to read it online, please let us know at northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk

Cover photo credit:
Zute Lightfoot for ACAVA

Audit underway on construction materials

After thorough checks and safety advice from experts, Kensington and Chelsea Council has agreed with the headteachers and governors that both the new Kensington Queensmill School and Barlby School will open on time for the new term in September.

This follows an investigation into the use of Kingspan products in the construction of the new school, and is a decision taken as part of a now much wider audit on buildings across the borough.

Kensington and Chelsea Council has also become the first local authority in the country to put in place a policy to limit the use of named companies currently involved in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

The Council is updating its website on a regular basis throughout the audit process, and will include details of products, what we plan to do about it, and what safety advice we have received.



Scan the QR code for more info and an explanatory video.

Next phase of easing lockdown

We are currently in phase three of the Government's easing of lockdown. This means that:

- The rule of six, or two households now applies inside
- You can sit inside in pubs and restaurants
- Cinemas and theatres are open
- You can stay overnight in other places
- Organised indoor sport starts again
- Weddings, wakes and other significant life events can have up to **30 people**. Funerals can have the capacity of the venue
- International travel resumes using the traffic light system.

At the time of print, the plan is for all remaining restrictions to be lifted from Monday 21 June. The Government will continue to monitor the virus and may decide this date needs to be pushed back. Search the web for "lockdown restrictions" to make sure you know the latest guidance.

Step 3

Vaccination and Testing

Nearly **66 million** doses of the vaccine have been given in the UK and, at the time of print, anyone aged **30 or over** can get their vaccine.

You can book online by going to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or calling the NHS on **119** free of charge. Nearly all first dose vaccines are now Pfizer, rather than AstraZeneca.

If you have any concerns about taking the vaccine you can find out more by visiting www.rbkc.gov.uk and searching vaccination FAQ or speaking to your GP.

The vaccine reduces your risk of catching or having severe illness from Coronavirus and helps protect your family and friends.

The Government is also encouraging people to get tested twice a week to ensure they are not spreading Coronavirus without being aware as one-in-three people with the virus show no symptoms.

To order free Coronavirus tests, search "coronavirus tests" online. If you cannot order online, call **119**.

Lines are open 7am to 11pm and calls are free.

Had your jab? Share a selfie

Want to let the world know you've done your bit to protect your loved ones and community from Coronavirus? Share a selfie post-jab using the hashtag **#MyJabSelfie** on social media! We'll be sharing the best submissions.



Monday 14 June will mark four years since the tragedy at Grenfell Tower

This time will be more difficult than usual for many people in North Kensington and it will be compounded by the on-going impact of Covid-19.

Commemorative events will be taking place in North Kensington to pay respects to the 72 people who lost their lives in the tragedy, but we equally understand many people will choose to mark the day in private. If you do choose to attend an event we would encourage everyone to pay attention to social distancing and other Covid-19 related guidelines.

Much is still being planned, but we are expecting a range of different commemorative events including: the illumination of the Tower and other local buildings; bells of churches across London will ring 72 times at 7pm on Monday 14 June; online vigils and videos by churches and community groups; and private opportunities for bereaved and survivors to be able to pay their respects within the Tower site.

Keeping safe

Although Covid-19 restrictions are gradually lifting, there are things you may need to consider to make sure that everyone stays safe.

For indoor events, you can meet with six people you do not live with or two households.

For outdoor events, up to 30 people can gather in an outdoor space. People should keep their distance

from others they do not live with or share a support bubble with. Remember, some people may not show symptoms and may unknowingly spread Covid-19 with their loved ones.

If you have a continuous cough, a headache or loss of smell and taste you should stay home.

These rules apply even if you've had the Covid-19 vaccine because you can still pass the virus onto others.

These regulations are correct at the time of print, to make sure you're following the latest rules, please search "Covid-19 restrictions".

Support

The NHS is available to help at this difficult time and the Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service can be reached by calling **020 8637 6279** from 8am to 8pm or emailing grenfell.wellbeing@nhs.net.

The service can talk to you about any feelings you're struggling with and refer you to the best support to suit you. After 8pm and out of hours please call the CNWL Advice Support line on **0800 0234 650**.

Our thoughts are with the community at this difficult time.

New additions to Grenfell mosaic

The last four mosaic pieces of phase two of ACAVA's Grenfell Memorial Community Mosaic will be installed this month, in time for the fourth anniversary of the tragedy.

The mosaic leaves were created by school communities from Barlby, Bevington and Oxford Gardens primaries, and bereaved and survivor families from Grenfell United, with support from artists Emily Fuller and Tomomi Yoshida.

ACAVA would like to thank all of those who have contributed to this significant community memorial and the open community workshops so far. A full list of contributors can be found on the project website (scan the QR code).

The third and final phase of the Grenfell Memorial Community Mosaic is currently being planned.



Scan the QR code for more information from ACAVA.

Photo credit: Zute Lightfoot for ACAVA.

Residents help to influence future delivery of Grenfell community projects

Residents' feedback is now helping to shape how future rounds of Grenfell Projects Funds (GPF) and Community Leadership Programmes (CLP) will be delivered following a recent consultation.

The consultation ran from 18 February to 9 April 2021 and saw almost 100 responses about the GPF and 80 on the CLP. Thanks to everyone who we spoke to and who responded via the survey.

We've received a lot of feedback about how residents can be more involved in the design and delivery of both the Fund and Programme. The idea of creating a resident-led steering group or panel proved popular, so we are looking at the best way to go about this. Please keep an eye out for how you can get involved via the Council's website and other channels. If you'd like to express your interest now, please email GrenfellCommunityTeam@rbkc.gov.uk or call Kevin Ramsey on **07857 696791**.

Some other key feedback from residents on the GPF consultation was:

- Half of those who responded thought the GPF was a success and 64 per cent would recommend that a friend or neighbour apply to the GPF
- Almost half of respondents said the six themes should remain the same
- The majority of respondents favoured a combination of a resident-led steering group and a public vote for the decision-making process
- Residents would like to receive information about the GPF through the Council's social media platforms, texts, WhatsApp groups and face-to-face meetings. Many respondents felt that the website was the best place to get information about the Fund

Feedback on the CLP highlighted:

- More than half of respondents said that they learnt new things whilst taking part in a CLP course and 49 per cent said that the CLP helped them think about what they can offer to the wider community
- Residents wanted courses and training to focus on fundraising, budget management, IT and community and bid writing
- Respondents were keen to have a combination of a resident-led steering group and an online voting process to decide what courses should be delivered as part of the CLP
- Respondents would like to receive information about the CLP through the Council's social media platforms, texts, WhatsApp groups and face-to-face meetings. Many respondents felt that the website was the best place to get information about the CLP
- The need for improved marketing of the CLP to engage more residents

You can find a list of all the projects currently in delivery, full consultation findings and details of how to get involved, on the Council's website. Just search "**Grenfell Projects Fund**" or scan the QR code



You can also find details of how to get involved with courses available through the ongoing Community Leadership Programme. Just search "**Community Leadership Programme**" on the Council's website or scan the QR code



A day of family fun to shape future services

With the easing of lockdown, Maxilla City (CIC) is giving local residents a chance to come and celebrate together with food, fun, kids' activities and lively discussions to collate ideas and feedback for a pioneering local community assessment report.

The day of activities will take place on Thursday 24 June from 3pm to 8pm at Westway Sports Centre, Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP.

Conversations on the day will focus on how circumstances have recently changed for residents and how services provided by Maxilla might need to adapt. The information will then be fed back to the Council, charities, funders and local partners to inform what provision is needed in North Kensington.

All attendees will receive a copy of the findings report as well as a £20 food voucher to thank them for their participation.



For more information about the event, or if you have any access requirements to be considered on the day, please email hello@maxillacity.org or call 07942 318393.

Free Museum of Brands tickets for local residents

To give back to the local area, the Museum of Brands is giving away free tickets to Kensington and Chelsea residents until Wednesday 1 September 2021.

Each week, five eligible streets within the borough will be announced on the museum's [Twitter @museumofbrands](https://twitter.com/museumofbrands).

Residents of those streets can attend the Museum's permanent collection and temporary displays free of charge.

Visitors are asked to pre book their timed slot in advance through Art Tickets using code FREET4S and show proof of address upon arrival. Visit this website page to book your slot: www.museumofbrands.com/treats-streets/



Follow [@museumofbrands](https://twitter.com/museumofbrands) on Twitter or Facebook for updates

For more information, email Natasha@museumofbrands.com or call 020 7243 9611.

Lancaster West's first low-energy home

Lancaster West Neighbourhood Team (LWNT) is excited to present the first low-energy council house in Kensington and Chelsea on Verity Close on the Lancaster West Estate. This is part of the ambition to become a carbon neutral estate by 2030.

Working with ECD Architects, the team took a whole-house approach to improve energy efficiency in the three-bedroom property, meaning it is warmer in winter, and with significantly reduced energy bills for residents. The house has many sustainable features including 16 solar panels, triple-glazed windows, upgraded insulation (which is non-combustible), an air source heat pump and mechanical ventilation heat recovery system.

LWNT's director James Caspell said:

"This shows that it is possible to transform existing council homes into low-carbon high-quality places to live. We will use the learning from the project to benefit the wider estate. We now have a unique opportunity."

To read more visit www.WeAreW11.org



Celebrate culture this summer at the Kensington + Chelsea Festival

The Kensington + Chelsea Festival is a new summer event that offers a variety of arts experiences in venues and unusual spaces across the borough, running from 21 June to 31 August 2021.

The Festival is evolving every day with new announcements about the programme, launch

events, opportunities for artists, ideas-sharing sessions, workshops that encourage co-creation, sharing ideas and stories. Further details about open calls and the programme will soon be available online.

Learn more about the festival at www.kcaw.co.uk/kc-festival

Key workers move into homes fit for heroes

Key workers who served on the front line of the Covid-19 pandemic are settling into modern new homes provided through a Kensington and Chelsea pilot programme.

Under the key worker accommodation scheme, 14 flats on Kensal Road in North Kensington were offered at affordable rents to NHS and education professionals who serve the borough's residents.

The Council received more than 325 expressions of interest in the one-, two- and three-bedroom properties, with the levels of demand now being used to develop a full key worker housing policy for the Council.

The key worker properties are offered at "intermediate" rents, which is affordable housing for those unlikely to access homes at social rent levels, but who may not be able to afford open market rates.



Scan the QR code to hear from one of the new residents, Cate Latto, a mental health professional who has worked at St Charles Hospital throughout the pandemic. Cate created and runs the One Community programme that helps mental health patients transition from hospital to home.



Construction begins on new Kensington and Chelsea council homes

Plans to deliver 600 new council-owned homes in Kensington and Chelsea are a step closer to becoming reality after building work began on two sites in the borough.



Construction is now underway on 37 homes and community and commercial space adjacent to Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church on Kensal Road, with an additional 20 homes being built on Hewer Street opposite St Charles' Hospital.

The Council has appointed Willmott Dixon to complete the schemes, which were designed following public consultations and are expected to be ready for residents in late 2022 or early 2023.

The developments are part of the Council's New Homes Delivery Programme to build 600 homes – at least 300 at social rent – on Council-owned land.

Search "new homes" at www.rbkc.gov.uk to discover more about the New Homes Delivery Programme.



The future of Grenfell Tower

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has written to bereaved families, survivors and local residents about a decision on the future of Grenfell Tower.

The Government is keen to speak to as many people as possible, and hear any questions, concerns or comments before a decision is made. Starting last month, several ways have been arranged for you to hear from and talk to the MHCLG team and engineering experts advising the Government:

Online group presentations followed by questions and answers - these are running until 21 July.

Personal meetings for individuals, households or support bubbles. These are available either in-person or as online meetings. In-person meetings will follow precautions in line with the government's Covid-19 guidance to ensure safety. Please book these at:
<http://Grenfell2021.eventbrite.com>

You can also: Arrange a one-to-one conversation at a time to suit you.

Book an appointment at the Friday residents' 'drop-ins' at The Clement James Centre, W10 4EQ taking place on 25 June and 2, 9, 16 and 23 July.

Please contact MHCLG on the email address or telephone number provided.

For more details go to www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/grenfell-community-updates. Here you will find

available dates and time slots, as well as venue information, so that you can choose a meeting that suits you. This will help ensure a dedicated time for everyone, as well as maintaining social distancing.

You can also book to attend more than one meeting. Further spaces will be added if meetings or presentations are booked up so that everyone has the chance to attend.

At www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/grenfell-community-updates you will also find a range of information that will help make a decision on the Tower, for you to consider and comment on. The Government, as guardian of the Grenfell Tower site, needs to consider this summer if, and when, the Tower should be carefully taken down to maintain safety, following important advice from structural engineers.

For further details, or for help booking onto a meeting or presentation, please contact MHCLG by emailing GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or calling 0303 444 0011

Grenfell
community
updates

Have your say on Barlby new homes plans

The latest plans for new homes at Barlby Road will be consulted on later this month, giving you a chance to view presentation materials and share your views.

Members of the project team for the site at Barlby Road will be sharing updates to the scheme at an in-person event on the morning of Saturday 19 June and at an online presentation from 5.30 to 6.30pm on Monday 21 June.

You can find out more about the site ahead of the sessions by viewing the presentation materials and completing a survey at www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homes-barlby. Information about the in-person event and a link to the Zoom session will also be available, along with findings from the previous round of consultation.

Barlby Road forms part of phase two of the Council's New Homes Delivery Programme, which aims to deliver 600 new homes on Council-owned land in the borough, with a minimum of 300 at social rent.

Building for the Future

Have your say on new homes at **Barlby**
Round 2 consultation

North Kensington residents have their say on future support services

More than 240 people had their say in a recent consultation looking at how we could improve emotional health and wellbeing support for adults and young people in North Kensington who have been affected by Grenfell.

The Council has been working with some brilliant grassroots providers to deliver services for the North Kensington community, including services offered under the 'Together 4 Grenfell' umbrella for adults.

With three years of the Grenfell Recovery Programme remaining, we wanted to work with the community to gather feedback to help us shape the next phase of support. We have been working with the current Together 4 Grenfell providers, children's emotional health and wellbeing provision in schools and the community to develop service proposals and have been speaking to our health and community and voluntary partners to support this and to help us plan for new services.

The adult's consultation, which ran from 1 February to 26 March 2021, resulted in 97 survey responses and 37 stakeholders attending three focus groups. An online consultation for youth services was launched on 27 January 2021 and ran until 26 March 2021 with almost 140 survey responses from schools, partners, residents, parents, and children and young people who also took part in focus groups.

Adult's consultation headlines:

- 77% currently using local services to support their emotional health and wellbeing needs
- 92% currently using Together 4 Grenfell services said they were very good or good
- 89% using Together 4 Grenfell Services told us their emotional health and wellbeing had significantly improved or slightly improved
- There is a strong feeling that despite some improvements in emotional health and wellbeing that there was a clear ongoing need for these services
- There is strong positive feedback on the provision for those currently receiving support

Where we could improve:

- 69% felt emotional health and wellbeing support for young adults was an area of need
- 66% felt support groups were needed
- 57% felt support for elders to tackle social isolation and loneliness was a gap

To see the full consultation findings scan the QR codes.

Adult survey



Young person's survey



As a result of the feedback, the Council's Leadership Team were asked to agree a series of recommendations based on residents' feedback. We will be looking at an enhanced counselling and wellbeing service for adults and we will be offering additional therapy to over 50s to help tackle isolation.

For young people, the Council recognised the positive feedback from the consultation on existing provision and agreed to fund existing providers in schools and community-based settings to deliver refreshed and rescoped emotional health and wellbeing services in line with the consultation themes. We will also make funding available to new community initiatives that meet our criteria which is planned for launch in late June/July.

We are also developing a peer support programme for adults in the local community to launch this summer.

We will be working with residents and partners to increase the reach of all initiatives wherever we can so that we can reach as many local people as possible through these initiatives.

If you would like to find out more about the current emotional health and wellbeing services on offer for adults. Please email grenfellcommissioning@rbkc.gov.uk

If you would like to find out more about the current emotional health and wellbeing services on offer for children and young people, please email Marjana.Tharin@rbkc.gov.uk

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission

'Forever in our hearts'

The Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission community representatives recognise that this is likely to be an extremely difficult time of year for the whole community. It is also a time for reflection and for coming together. The Memorial Commission will be contributing its own commemorations as well as supporting activities held by the bereaved, survivors and community. Throughout this period, and for those who wish to, the community representatives will continue to be available for conversations to determine the most fitting ways to remember those who have been lost. You can contact the community representatives through the "about us" page at www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk.

What has the Memorial Commission been doing?

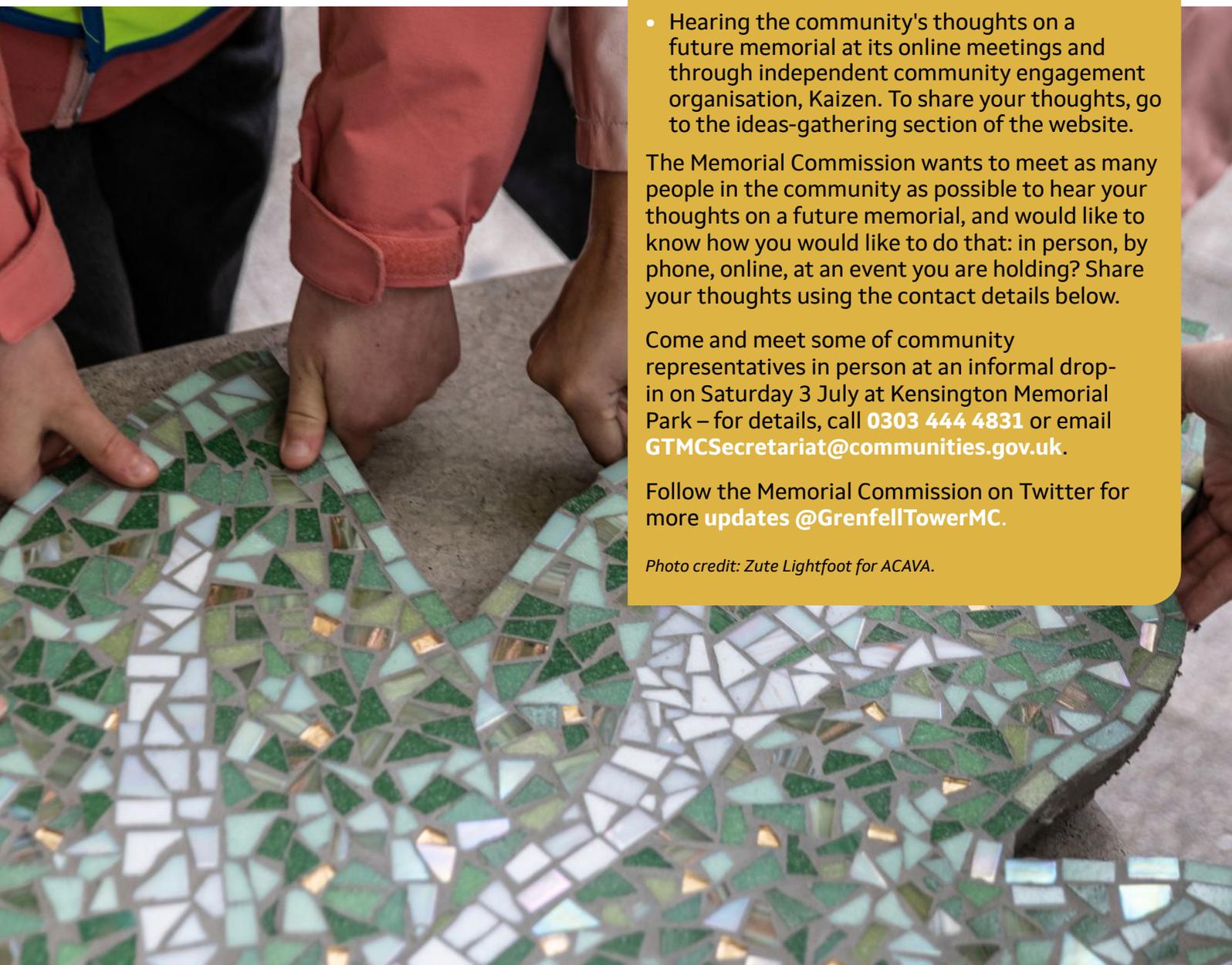
- Learning from other memorials, including Aberfan. You can read more about the Aberfan memorials in the latest newsletter – see the "News and Publications" page at www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk where you can also sign up to receive the newsletter direct to your inbox.
- Holding monthly community meetings, currently online, where you can talk to the community representatives and ask questions. Please go to the website for dates and joining details of upcoming meetings, or contact GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk
- Hearing the community's thoughts on a future memorial at its online meetings and through independent community engagement organisation, Kaizen. To share your thoughts, go to the ideas-gathering section of the website.

The Memorial Commission wants to meet as many people in the community as possible to hear your thoughts on a future memorial, and would like to know how you would like to do that: in person, by phone, online, at an event you are holding? Share your thoughts using the contact details below.

Come and meet some of community representatives in person at an informal drop-in on Saturday 3 July at Kensington Memorial Park – for details, call **0303 444 4831** or email GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk.

Follow the Memorial Commission on Twitter for more updates [@GrenfellTowerMC](https://twitter.com/GrenfellTowerMC).

Photo credit: Zute Lightfoot for ACAVA.



Help end violence against women and girls

We're developing a new strategy for ending violence against women and girls across Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

To help make sure we get it right, we want to hear from you about your experiences and what you think is important.

Our five-year strategy will set out our collective approach to ending violence against women and girls and our priorities to ensure safety for anyone living, studying, working or travelling through our boroughs.

Whether you are male or female, have experienced abuse or not, we want to hear your views.

Have your say before Sunday 20 June by taking our five minute survey: survey. Visit the link or scan the QR code. <https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk/communities/vawg-strategy-2021/>



Applications for EU Settlement Scheme close this month

If you are an EU national living in the UK, you need to apply for pre-settled or settled status by Wednesday 30 June 2021. It's vital that you apply before the deadline to be able to continue to live and work in the UK. It's free to apply and you can complete the first application stage via your smartphone with the Home Office's 'EU Exit: ID Document Check' app. If you don't have access to a smartphone, our EuSS (European Settled Status) service team can help you with starting your application. Find out more at www.rbkc.gov.uk/euss.

Councils meeting to be held in person

Recent Government regulations that allowed local councils to hold remote meetings expired on Thursday 6 May. As such, Council, Committee and Leadership Team meetings are now being held in person once again.

Space at our Council meetings will be limited to follow social distancing guidelines but we will still webcast our meetings so you can watch from the comfort of your home.

To learn more about meetings and to stay up to date on how you can take part, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search 'council meetings'.

