

St Quintin and Woodlands
Neighbourhood Forum
St Helens Residents Association

Open meeting July 12th 2017
St Helens Church hall (slides part 2 of 3)

The RBKC response

Much criticised and acknowledged by the Council to have been inadequate

Borough Emergency Plan triggered 3am June 14th, but little RBKC presence on the ground

London-wide mutual aid arrangements invoked on Friday 16th

Grenfell Response Team took over responsibility on 18th June led by John Barradell (Corporation of London) plus Southwark CE Eleanor Kelly

RBKC Emergency Plan

The Council has a generic contingency plan for dealing with major emergencies

All local authorities are required to have such plans (2004 Civil Contingencies Act)

RBKC Contingency Planning Team of 3.5 staff

Emergency Control room at the Town Hall

Grenfell Public Inquiry

Led by Sir Martin Moore-Bick

Website at www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk

Scope of Inquiry is being consulted on until July
14th

The Inquiry will report in two phases, with an
interim report published as quickly as possible

What do we think the Inquiry should cover?

Wider the scope, the longer it will take.

Public Inquiry or Inquest?

There can be both a public inquiry and an inquest, if for any reason the public inquiry does not deal with all issues of relevance to the purposes of an inquest: this has happened in some cases in the past (e.g Hillsborough, Zeebrugge, Ladbroke Grove rail crash).

From website of the charity INQUEST



Most human rights lawyers seem to favour an inquiry over an inquest, as the former can be more wide-ranging. But will either satisfy the families and friends of victims?



The tube station heart shaped tribute to the Grenfell fire victims will soon adorn the hoarding covering the site of the disaster.

The logo, which is a symbol of solidarity and compassion for everyone affected by the tragedy, will be interspersed by art from local residents

(extract from Crisis Response Team newsletter)

No covering of the tower until October at the earliest

Suggestions to Government

- Moratorium on planning approvals to high rise residential towers until Building Regs and Means of Escape strategies have been fully amended and brought up to date
- More clarity on roles of local and central government on responding to major emergency scenarios (2004 Civil Contingencies Act covers this, but enough?)
- New guidance on fighting fires in tall buildings and equipment required (fighting fires from the air?)

Suggestions to RBKC

- Provide more affordable medium density housing in the Borough wherever possible
- Rethink current estate renewal policies for Silchester Estate
- Unravel causes of subletting and prevent, as it is part of the toxic divide between 'us and them', hinders the ability to properly manage, update, refurbish and safety check all accommodation
- Review emergency plan and mutual aid
- Trauma counselling for survivors to be appropriate, timely and easily obtained (this may be happening?)

Suggestions for the Public Inquiry

- Complete initial report soon, on causes of the fire, technical issues on cladding
- Identify most urgent changes needed to Building Regulations
- Follow up with further report on wider issues of London's dysfunctional housing market, social divide, management of social housing
- Scarman report completed between April 1981 and October 1981 (wide-ranging report on causes of Brixton riots).

RBKC inquiry/investigation

New Leader of RBKC Cllr Elizabeth Campbell has spoken of an 'independent inquiry' or investigation by the Council

What might this cover, separate from the Public Inquiry?