

World's End Residents' Association



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Notes of the WERA Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 20th of June 2017 at 7pm in the WERA Clubroom, 16 Blantyre Street

1 In Attendance:

WERA – Margaret Grayling (Chair), Ferdusi Sohail, Eryl Humphrey Jones, Cathrin Vowinckel, Kai Choudhury, Ali Ahmed, John Rendall, Jules Montero.

Others – Cllr. Gerard Hargreaves, Cllr. Adrian Berrill-Cox.

Apologies – Monica Boholst, Maggie Byrne.

2 Key points of discussion:

The meeting had been called at the request of several Committee members following the tragic events on the Lancaster West Estate in the north of the borough.

It was noted that a criminal investigation into the fire at Grenfell Tower was now underway. It was also noted that reliable information was in short supply and that the Fire Brigade was unlikely to report any of its findings for at least several weeks.

JM had put together a list of all the fire safety related issues Committee members had reported by email (on back). The meeting went through and discussed all of the items listed.

A discussion took place with regards to the production of a newsletter and the convening of a public meeting. As a first step towards organising a public meeting JM had contacted the Fire Brigade's Fire Safety Team to see if they might be able to attend. JM had also approached the Chelsea Theatre to see if the Auditorium could be used as the venue for the meeting.

3 Decisions/Actions:

1. Committee members would carry out a visual inspection of each of the seven tower blocks and note any visible issues with the fire doors, dry risers, service cupboards, lighting and signage. JM would collate the responses and forward these to the TMO for resolution. Committee members would carry out a second visual inspection 6-8 weeks later to monitor the TMO's progress.
2. GH would keep WERA updated on any progress with regards to the Fire Safety Audit now being arranged by RBK&C (as instructed by DCLG). GH would also try to ensure that WERA had full visibility of the results/outcome.
3. A newsletter would be prepared as soon as any information with regards to the Fire Safety Audit (e.g. when it was due to take place) or any other meaningful action by RBK&C/TMO was available. The newsletter could also be used to publicise the public meeting.
4. A public meeting would be held. It was agreed that the meeting would take place once the Fire Brigade had confirmed their attendance and significant information was available with regards to the outcome, or likely outcome of the Fire Safety Audit of the estate.

Fire Safety Issues List (as of 20/06/2017):

This is the complete unedited list of fire safety related issues reported by Committee members.

1. Condition of fire doors in tower blocks. Audit of all fire door, door closers & door frames.
2. Condition of lights in stairwells, landings and walkways. What is their fire rating?
3. Condition of dry risers in tower blocks.
4. Condition of service cupboards. Potential to allow fire to spread upwards?
5. Visibility of maintenance schedules of any/all fire equipment.
6. Questions around the mains gas supply and locations of gas pipes.
7. Are all the fire paths to the estate still usable?
8. Have any original fire safety measures been removed (e.g. as part of asbestos removal)?
9. Main entrance doors to blocks must open from the inside during a power cut.
10. Front doors to all tenanted flats in blocks and on walkways - do they match fire-safety standards?
11. Why are there no fire alarms anywhere in the estate? We have individual alarms but there are none in the communal areas.
12. The possibility of installing a sprinkler system on the estate, either to all flats or to communal areas.
13. Visibility of reports of meetings between TMO and LFB Fire Safety Team & confirmation that action points from these meetings have been taken care of.
14. Accuracy of tenancy/occupancy records for the estate.
15. Previously agreed amendments to the Tenants Handbook with regards to the Fire Evacuation Strategy - have they been actioned & tenants informed? Leaseholders must also be issued with fire evacuation strategy.
16. How many residents use oil-based portable heaters and similar equipment? How many fan heaters have the TMO given to residents in the last 4 years?