

Grenfell Community Assembly

Notes from Grenfell Community Assembly Held on Monday 25th January 2021

Theme: Activities for young people

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Introduction

The Grenfell Community Assembly has been established to ensure that Grenfell related matters are openly discussed and provide the place for statutory and non-statutory partners to respond to local concerns.

An Assembly will take place approximately every eight weeks in North Kensington, bringing the conversation closer to residents. The Assembly is not a replacement for Grenfell Scrutiny, there will be ongoing scrutiny of Grenfell issues through the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and four Select Committees.

January 2021 Grenfell Community Assembly

The fourth Assembly took place on the 25st of January 2021 online and was publicised to residents, with a specific aim to attract residents who do not normally engage with the Council and young people. This included a variety of methods, including leaflets, social media, promotional videos, Detached and Outreach Team promotion, contacting networks and the Council's website.

The topic of this Grenfell Community Assembly was the 'Activities for Young People'. The Assembly provided an opportunity for residents to discuss; What types of activities will enable young people in this area to live a full and rewarding life?

Over 56 residents attended the online Grenfell Assembly, in addition to a number of local Councillors.

Assembly agenda

The Assembly took place between 6.00pm and 7.30pm, with the following agenda:

Time	Item
5.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online arrivals
6.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music from local young person
6.05pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome & introductions
6.10pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth facilitator welcome and overview of the evening
6.20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakout Room Discussion (Round One)
6.47pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakout Room Discussion (Round Two & Three)
7.23pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback
7.25pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next Steps and introduction topic for the next Community Assembly
7.28pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing remarks

Table discussions

The main body of the agenda gave residents the opportunity to take part in table discussions covering the following topics:

Barriers to access

Is a lack of effective marketing for services and unaffordable prices in places e.g. local leisure centres a barrier for young people accessing services in the borough?

Mental health and wellbeing

Do you feel there are enough mental health and support programmes for young people Grenfell effected by the Grenfell tragedy?

Alternative curriculum

Do you feel young people have experienced a broad and interesting curriculum in vocations that they want to pursue? E.g. Woodworking or Aviation, Coding, Beauty Therapy etc.

Activities for specific age groups

11 to 15 year-olds and 16 to 25 year-olds: Do feel the right activities are available for these two age groups?

As part of the build-up to the Assembly and to help form the agenda for the Assembly young people consulted with their peers from the local community, the youth providers from across North Kensington and officers from the Early Help Teams to ensure we had sufficient representation to have a meaningful discussion.

A Youth Ambassador chaired the Assembly with assistance from an external facilitator. The online breakout room discussions were facilitated with a mixture of council officers and Young Ambassadors from the Youth Participation Team.

This document

This document contains a summary of feedback from the Assembly, as well as more detailed feedback generated at each online breakout room. We hope that this document is read by people who did not attend the event and encourages more people to take part in future Grenfell Community Assemblies.

We have included the detailed feedback notes of the comments and views expressed by individual residents at each discussion table, it does not necessarily mean that each comment is endorsed by the majority of attendees or the many residents who were not present for those discussions.

This report does not include personal identifiable data, and we have not published information that is sensitive or names of individuals that were put forward during the online breakout room discussions.

Next steps

In partnership with our colleagues across the council, we are working on an action focused response plan that will be shared with the community by the end of February 2021.

The Action Plan will include the actions we have already taken, the ones we have planned and potential new actions that have been identified by the community. The Action Plan will also include ways in which the community can be involved as well as ways the community can contribute to improving services locally.

As the Assembly becomes more established, we hope to get greater resident involvement.

The next Assembly will take place on 22nd March 2021 and will focus on “Employment and Skills”. This will again be online due to Covid-19. Further details are available via the Council’s website and other social media formats.

Acknowledgements

The Council would like to thank everyone that attended and participated in this Grenfell Community Assembly and to all the partner organisations that attended, assisted and facilitated discussions.

A big thank you also goes out to the young people who led, planned and facilitated January’s conference with professionalism and positivity.

Assembly feedback

- How well run was this meeting: Well 50%, Very well 41%, Not sure 5%, Badly 5%
- Do you think you were able to contribute and have your voice heard? Yes 95% Yes, Not sure 5%
- Were you able to make new connections or renew relationships? Yes 82%, Not sure 14%, No 5%
- How confident are you that the council will act on what you have said? Not sure 48%, Very confident 26%, Confident 17%, Not confident 9%.

Summary of discussions

This section of the report captures the key points of the discussions held on the four themes at January's Grenfell Community Assembly. Full details of comments made in relation to each theme can be seen on subsequent pages.

The Youth council, ambassadors and young people who facilitated the event and have outlined the recommendations below and the main areas of focus:

Mental Health and Wellbeing;

- Apps, physical/online sessions and spaces that help promote positive mental health.
- Mental health should be taken more seriously in schools, youth clubs and youth organisations - counselling sessions should be implemented, especially online.
- Better relationships and trust need to be built between young people and mental health services.
- More support networks for both 121 and group work sessions for young people.

Non Curriculum / alternative studies

- More emphasis on practical learning e.g. life skills, finance, taxes, debt, credit, savings, benefits, mortgage.
- More taster sessions & workshops that give young people opportunities to try new experiences – An insight into the creative and art industries.
- Update music facilities – More programmes that teach young people about the music industry.
- A broader range of IT courses - We are in a digital age where young people need to be equipped with the skills and knowledge to meet today's standards. E.g. coding, database management and Microsoft applications.

Specific activities for young people aged 11- 15 years

- More physical and outdoor activities during COVID.
- Online programme of activities.
- More opportunities to develop skills in creative and vocational fields.
- A borough wide plan of activities that young people can get involved, including a list of things to try, places to visit and new things that are happening in the borough also.

Specific activities for young people 16 - 25 years

- Study spaces with IT suites and free Wi-Fi access for young people to do their studies.
- Financial literacy works around - how to build credit; understanding the stock market and mortgages, to help prepare young people for economic stability.
- More youth led activities.
- Mentoring programmes targeting young adults that need additional support.
- Better employment pathways that connect young people with industry leads, apprenticeships and work experience.

Themed discussions

This section of the report puts forward detailed notes from each of the online breakout room discussions. The detailed feedback notes capture the comments and views expressed by individual residents at each discussion table, it does not necessarily mean that each comment is endorsed by most attendees.

Session One: Let's get talking!

What types of activity will enable young people in this area to lead a full and rewarding life?

We shared two themes, centre-based and online activities with participants. They also had the option to add or focus on any other issues that they felt was more important. The feedback included:

Youth club offer

- Youth clubs offer the same old programmes e.g. music with no progression or next steps.
- Supplementary schools offer lots of activities and support.

Online activities

- Latimer Community Art Therapy are offering lots of online activities.
- Young K and C are doing lots of activities – they also gave out tablets to families and food at Christmas time.

We need constant input from young people

- There needs to be more work experience activities for young people, particularly with the fact that there is so many employers in the borough.
- More tasters for young people around careers and industries in schools and education centres.
- Young people have told the community that they need employment/work.
- Some families cannot access support because English is their language barrier.
- More outings and trips for children and young people would be good.
- Because most things are online, low income families need more support to access devices for their children to do their homework, apply for college and do job applications.
- Accessing mentoring would be good.

Session Two: Barriers to access

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Apps that help with mental health, like promoting meditation – HEADSPACE.
- Zoom meetings with calming hobbies like knitting or drawing.
- Promoting exercise like running.

- Having a group that talks about fitness – like a support system.
- Stay connected through 1-1 support.
- Group exercise like Yoga over Zoom.
- Group therapy - A bingo type format activity that holds certain issues that acts as an ice breaker for the group to talk about things.
- Mental health should be taken more seriously in schools.
- Schools need to implement counselling sessions, especially for online schooling as this is becoming overwhelming.
- Access to electronic devices and facilities needed – A call to lobby the council to ensure provisions for mental health.
- There needs to be adequate food for children and help with to deal with the pressures or growing up and mental wellbeing.
- Very hard to get young people to sign up to mental health projects - they need people that they can trust.
- Group sessions as a support network.
- Sports as a key vehicle for young people's mental well-being.
- Mental Health is a key point now given the situation that we are in - young people isolated just in their rooms.
- We should use creative writing as a vehicle to support young people's mental well-being.

Non Curriculum / alternative studies

- Science is underrepresented, there needs to be more emphasis on museums for knowledge as well as fun.
- We need more business development opportunities at Portobello Market.
- Networking routes/master programmes that will prepare young people for the future.
- More emphasis on practical learning e.g. workshops, talks, seminars on financial management, taxes, and mortgages should be implemented in schools.
- Creative industries and arts learning for young people giving new opportunities.
- Credit, debt, taxes and benefits seminars held in community facilities.
- IT courses for young people from a young age as everything is going digital.
- Make use of kitchen facilities at Lancaster youth club and Kensington Aldridge Academy.
- Training on how to access funding for a project – bid writing.
- There are not enough music facilities.
- Increase opportunities where young people can do Coding either in schools and other provision in borough without them having to pay for it.
- More apprenticeships and internships made available for young people.
- A whole different range of activities like Photography and Youth refereeing.
- More transparency on the Grenfell project money to fund local facilities.
- Opportunities to get involved in international trips.

Session Three: Specific activities

Specific activities for young people aged 11- 15 years

- Community kitchen delivers food to children, adults and families.
- Lots of families do not have access to laptops and the internet.
- Can RBKC make WIFI available to all north Kensington?

Appendix 1: Chat Log

- National History Museum donated printed activity packs to foodbanks for families. Can more of this be created for the rest of lockdown?
- Community Kitchen can work with National History Museum to think about what children and young people would be interested.
- Having people in workplace settings that reflect the community
- Zoom book club.
- Outside sessions.
- Movie club on Zoom.
- Local drama projects.
- Group reading sessions.
- A carnival arts programme.
- Music and art based activities with an emphasis on creative activities as mainstream schools are lacking funding on arts and music.
- Latimer Community Art Therapy provide
 - art therapy to young people experiencing challenges such as self-harm and domestic abuse.
 - support for a longer time than some National History Museum services so there is not an abrupt end to help
- Can RBKC plan activities that lots of people can engage in? E.g. a list of things to try/places to visit in the borough everyone can access and do on their own/with family/bubble almost like a treasure hunt.
- National History Museum donated printed out activity packs to foodbanks for families, can more of this be created for the rest of lockdown?
- Young people need employability skills especially in the creative/vocational field
- Can we have a running club where young people can be mentored

Specific activities for young people 16 - 25 years

- Older people can mentor young people and give them advice and support – They can be allocated based on their common interests.
- Young adults should have more employment pathways at 16+ including easier access to work experience, apprenticeships and online experience e.g. admin roles.
- There should be more Job specific experiences with help from schools and experts in the field.
- Children and adolescent mental health services (CAHMS) should be closed – we need a campaign for something more realistic underfunded better treatment and facilities needed.
- Support working/studying young people to relax outside of work and distress.
- Group bike rides is something that young people are asking for.
- Financial literacy on how to build credit, stock market, mortgage - crucial to prepare young people for economic stability.
- Use of Westway Sports Centre – at affordable prices.
- Creative Industries and how to find employment.
- Multi Use Games Areas have been opened during this lockdown so young people can access them.
- The National History Museum have an outdoor garden that could be a space for children and young people.

Appendix 1: Chat Log

- Teaching young people soft skills for employment e.g. being punctual, how to conduct yourself at work.
- London Sports Trust provide support to groups of 15 young people who are vulnerable, or whose parents/carers are key workers, they do things like sports and baking.
- Activities that are young people led.
- Physical activities during COVID.
- Local history walks.
- Connecting young people with industry leads is key to their future.
- During Covid schools and youth clubs are missing a trick. i.e. bringing Science to life.
- Regarding science consider the history of the blue plaques within the borough.
- Local museums should be reaching out to local youth providers to work together to engage young people, especially the older teens
- Teach history and Science about the local community - e.g. Carnival Culture and the first Bentley was made in Chelsea south of the borough.