# Residents alarmed by rent hikes in historic Welsh Streets



Residents of the Welsh Streets in Toxteth, an area historically significant due to its connection with Beatles drummer Ringo Starr, are expressing growing alarm over substantial rent increases that they assert are threatening their close-knit community. Established in the 1870s by Welsh workers to accommodate dockers in Liverpool, these Victorian terraces have become a vital part of local heritage and a point of interest for music enthusiasts.

Recently, landlord Placefirst implemented a significant rent hike of up to 31%, prompting widespread concern among tenants who now fear being pushed out of the neighbourhood they have come to cherish. As stated by Daniel Jennings, who has been a resident since the area underwent regeneration, "There is no question that this means we will have to move out." Jennings highlighted the emotional attachment he and his family have to the community, noting that both their children have known only this home. He added, “It feels like as original tenants we are being pushed out.”

Steph Synyszn, another resident, shared her disappointment after transitioning to Madryn Street, where she had hoped for stability after being forced to leave her previous home owing to a 'no fault' eviction. She recalled the welcoming atmosphere she experienced upon moving in, but lamented the feeling of being forced out due to increasing rents. "My rent has already gone up twice in the time I have been here," Synyszn said. "If it goes up anything like what others around me have faced next time it is due to increase, I will have to move out."

Mike McKeown, who along with his partner has resided on Kinmel Street since 2021, expressed similar sentiments. He noted that the appealing proposition of staying in a community akin to social housing appeared to be misleading. "When we moved in we started to figure out this wasn't the full story and when our initial 12 month agreement ended, things became a lot more expensive."

Residents disclosed their experiences to the local media, highlighting their feelings of betrayal as they navigate rising costs while longing to maintain their place in a community that had once promised a stress-free living environment. They are receiving support from the ACORN union, which has drawn attention to the disparity in rental prices in the area. A notable example includes three-bedroom homes in the Welsh Streets being listed at £1,295, whereas similar properties nearby are available for £800 on the property market website, Rightmove.

In response to the community’s grievances, a spokesperson for Placefirst remarked that the company is dedicated to providing "high-quality, professionally managed homes" and asserted that the rent adjustments are reflective of the current market conditions. They confirmed that all increases undergo careful evaluation and that residents' concerns are taken seriously, with open channels for discussion regarding these changes being communicated to tenants upon the announcement of new rental prices.

The situation in the Welsh Streets encapsulates the broader complexities of urban housing dynamics, with long-standing residents now grappling with the implications of rising rents amidst a backdrop of historical significance and community ties.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://acornuk.good.do/northwest/placefirst-stop-the-rent-hikes/> - This URL corroborates the ongoing struggle of Welsh Streets residents facing high rent increases and their community's efforts to resist these hikes with the support of ACORN.
* <https://www.instagram.com/acornliverpool/p/DH372zRMDoI/> - This Instagram post mentions the resistance to rent hikes in Welsh Streets and highlights the broader context of renters' rights issues, including the upcoming Renters Reform Bill.
* <https://www.instagram.com/acornliverpool/p/DIE987zM1sT/> - This post documents ACORN's actions in Welsh Streets and illustrates the community's frustration with substantial rent increases, aligning residents' experiences with broader grievances.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Although the specific article was not found on Noah Wire Services, this link is indicated as the source of information about the situation in Welsh Streets, including resident testimonials and rent increase impacts.
* <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/> - Rightmove is mentioned as a property listing site where similar homes nearby Welsh Streets are available for lower rents, highlighting the disparity in local property prices.