

Tithebarn - A Community in the Making

Nestled between the River Clyst and Pin Brook adjacent to Exeter's Science Park, you'd be forgiven for not knowing exactly where Tithebarn is, or that it is now over five years since the first home was completed.

Although Tithebarn may not have the same modern-day history as other communities, archaeological excavations before construction started revealed a fascinating history of human occupation that spans over 3000 years.

Around half of the 1500 homes that are expected to make up Tithebarn have now been completed. As houses continue to be built towards the Clyst, the landscape is also being transformed on Tithebarn Way with the Local

Centre now rising from the ground. This will provide a much-needed hub for the community. Among its amenities, the Local Centre will host a Tesco Express, space for a café and outdoor street vendors, play equipment, and a set of sports pitches.

Yet, with progress comes challenges, and Tithebarn is no exception. Like many new developments, residents have been frustrated by the pace at which basic amenities have

been delivered, the maintenance of many of the public spaces, and the reliability of the district heating network. People living in Tithebarn are also missing out on the basic support that comes with living in an established area. However, amidst these challenges lies an opportunity for residents to actively shape the trajectory of the community. More than anything, we want to be able to say, 'I live in Tithebarn' and for people to reply, 'Oh yes, I've heard that is a great place to live.'



It was from conversations over the last year that a collective voice for the community was born: the **Tithebarn Residents Association**. With the invaluable help of Ebbie Peters, Community Builder for Pinhoe, and the Black Horse Inn for providing us with a welcoming space to meet, a constitution was drafted, a public meeting held, and committee voted in before Christmas. The committee is made up of people from across

Tithebarn with very different backgrounds and experiences in life, but what we all have in common is a passion for Tithebarn to thrive.

Central to the association's mission is empowering residents to participate in the shaping of Tithebarn's future. Regular public meetings are scheduled throughout the year. These offer residents a forum to share ideas, engage with local authorities, raise issues but above all, get to know one another. In the words of a resident that recently contacted the association, "A community

It costs nothing to be a member of the association and you can offer as little or as much time as you like to further its aims.

Our next public meetings will take place on 20 March and 23 May starting at 7 pm at The Black Horse Inn.

At our March meeting, PCSO Jonathan Sims from the Local Policing Team will be joining us to answer questions and listen to any issues that residents have, for example, pavement parking. We appreciate you might not be able to attend in person,

but if you would like to keep up to date with the association's work and offer your support, please visit our website www.tithebarn.uk. If you have any questions for Jonathan, or are interested in getting involved, please email ra@tithebarn.uk.

starts with the people who live in the area taking responsibility for the community on which they live...this starts with a sense of belonging."

As Tithebarn continues to evolve, the success of the association hinges upon it being supported by the wider community. To become a voice that is heard when engaging with developers or local authorities, we need your support in the work we do.

*Fran Aggleton and
Matthew Lehnert*

