

Press Release
5 June 2009

Melin and Jocelyn Davies AM welcome new residents to Goytre



Melin Homes celebrated the opening of its newest £1.6 million housing scheme in Goytre, Monmouthshire, on 3 June when Jocelyn Davies AM, Deputy Minister for Housing, welcomed the residents to their new homes.

Melin's Chief Executive Mark Gardner, Chair of Melin's Board Doiran Jones and Monmouthshire Council's cabinet member for housing services Brian Hood were also present to speak to the new residents and find out how they were settling in.

The Melin development, which was part funded by a £950,000 grant from the Welsh Assembly Government, is classed as a rural exception site. As such, the 14 new homes at Folly View Close were reserved exclusively for people in housing need and who had a strong local connection with the Goytre area. Melin worked in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council to carry out the application selection process.

The new homes, available for rent, have given families and individuals like Kelly the opportunity to start a brand new life.

Kelly, 24, recently moved into a one-bedroom flat at Folly View Close. Prior to this she lived with her parents locally in Goytre. Kelly has suffered with long-term illness since the age of 16 which has prevented her from working. For that

reason, Kelly thought it would take her years to afford her own house. Now, however, she has a home of her own thanks to Melin.

Kelly said: “Having my own home has changed my life. It’s amazing! It was a big step, but it’s given me independence and it’s lovely to be able to invite friends to my home. Also, due to the local connection criteria, I already know the majority of my neighbours which is reassuring and makes me feel secure. I would definitely recommend Melin – the application process was really easy and everyone seemed to genuinely want to help me.”

Jocelyn Davies AM said: “The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to creating 6,500 more affordable homes so it is fantastic to see the work that’s going on here that will help us meet this target. More affordable housing is desperately needed in the area and Melin is providing excellent quality housing in a fantastic location.”

Melin’s Chief Executive Mark Gardner said: “I’m delighted that Melin is able to provide these opportunities for high-quality, affordable homes to individuals like Kelly and other local families. It’s great to know that we can help people, especially families and younger people, remain in their local area and continue to contribute to the community where they grew up.”

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Photo caption: Jocelyn Davies AM visited residents at Folly View Close – Melin’s new housing development in Goytre.

For more information please contact Laura Maddrell, Communications Officer, on 01495 745929 or email laura.maddrell@melinhomes.co.uk

Notes to editors:

- Melin Homes is a not-for-profit landlord providing quality homes and services across Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport, Powys and Torfaen. For further information please visit www.melinhomes.co.uk
- Folly View Close is a 14 unit development of houses, bungalows and flats in Monmouthshire developed by Melin Homes.
- The scheme is a rural exception site so the homes are only available for local people in housing need, this is key in Monmouthshire as properties prices are very high both for rent and sale.
- The Welsh Assembly Government has provided SHG (Social Housing Grant) of nearly £950,000 for the 14 units.