

Press Release
13 August 2009

Successful partnership delivers more affordable homes for local people



Work is underway on the development of 24 much-needed affordable homes in Llantarnam, thanks to a successful partnership between Melin Homes, Torfaen Council and national housing developer Barratt Homes.

Barratt are building the homes for Melin and, once complete, the site will consist of 12 three-bedroom houses, 4 two-bedroom houses and 8 one-bedroom flats which will be available for rent and low-cost homeownership.

The development follows the success of another recent development by Melin and Barratt which helped 13 families to buy their own brand new homes at St Joseph's Meadow, Llantarnam, under Torfaen's low-cost home ownership scheme Help2Own. The remaining 11 homes on the site are rented.

Help2Own is provided in partnership with Melin and Torfaen Council. It is a scheme where buyers only pay for a percentage of the total house price. Buyers do not have to pay any rent; they just need to meet their monthly mortgage payments.

Mark Gardner, Chief Executive of Melin said: “We were thrilled at the interest we had in our homes at St Joseph’s Meadow and how quickly we were able to allocate them. It’s great to know that, even during these difficult economic times, our low-cost home ownership scheme is helping people to buy or rent their own homes. In addition to providing high-quality homes, our partnership with Barratt is also helping to support the building industry and safeguard jobs”.

Councillor Gwyneira Clark, Torfaen Council’s Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety, said: “Many people in Torfaen are seeking good quality housing but are unable to afford full market prices. Partnership working with registered social landlords and property developers benefits everyone, particularly the families and individuals who want to put down roots in Torfaen.”

Bob Phillips, Operations Director for Barratt Homes said: “We are delighted to work in close partnership with Melin Homes and Torfaen Council to deliver much needed affordable housing. This could not have been achieved without the foresight, cooperation and commitment of the Council to affordable housing, and ensuring job security within the area.”

Melin has invested over £16 million in building new homes for rent and low-cost sale in Torfaen over the past 12 months. This has resulted in 63 new homes in the county with a further 87 new homes planned over the coming year.

Melin’s properties at Llantarnam Mews will be ready for occupation in March 2010. For more information please call Melin’s Home Ownership team on 01495 745928, email enquiries@melinhomes.co.uk or contact the Help2Own team on 01495 742629 or email help2own@torfaen.gov.uk

Photo Caption: Doiran Jones, Chair of Melin Homes, Cllr Gwyneira Clark, Executive Member for Housing and Public Protection and Cllr Bob Wellington, Leader of Torfaen Council were joined on site at Llantarnam Mews by colleagues from Melin Homes, Torfaen Council and Barratt Homes South Wales.

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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