

Press Release
21 May 2009

Melin Homes welcome families to affordable new homes backed by the Assembly Government



Melin Homes was joined by Jocelyn Davies AM, Deputy Minister for Housing, to welcome residents to its new affordable homes in Blaenavon.

Melin was able to buy the four new four-bedroom homes at New Road Farm thanks to financial support from the Welsh Assembly's Strategic Capital Investment Fund (SCIF) – a £350 million initiative launched last December to boost regeneration, positive lifestyles, resilience, skills, climate change, and sustainable transport projects in Wales.

£42 million of the SCIF budget has been allocated to Welsh housing associations to help them buy unsold homes and plots from private contractors. In turn, it is hoped that this will create approximately 500 new affordable homes in Wales and support the building and construction industry in this unstable financial climate.

New tenants have already moved into the properties including Mr Warren, Miss Shaw and their three children. Miss Shaw said: "We're over the moon that we were able to get this house. Our new home is lovely and in such a great area. We're so grateful to Melin for all their help and support and ensuring that the application process ran so smoothly."

Deputy Minister Ms Davies said: "One of our aims was to help the most vulnerable families in Wales to get good quality affordable housing. Our action has also provided a cash flow to the construction industry, keeping people in work and supporting jobs."

Mark Gardner, Chief Executive of Melin Homes, said: "The Assembly's SCIF initiative has helped Melin meet the need for high-quality affordable homes for people in Blaenavon and help support the local building sector. It's been great to meet some of our new residents today and see first-hand the difference that the funding is making."

Melin has bought 18 SCIF properties in total in Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire.

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Photo caption 1: Deputy Minister for Housing Jocelyn Davies visits new affordable homes in Blaenavon with Torfaen's executive Member for Housing and Community Safety Gwyneira Clark, Melin's Chief Executive Mark Gardner and Chair of Melin's Board Doiran Jones.

Photo caption 2: Jocelyn Davies AM with new residents Mr Warren and Miss Shaw.

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
- The Welsh Assembly Government has allocated an extra £42 million from the SCIF to boost the creation of affordable homes. The money will be spent via the 22 Local Authorities in Wales over three years.
- SCIF money was allocated throughout Wales using a formula based on total dwelling stock estimates in each local authority in relation to Wales. £15million was spent in 2008/09.