

Press Release
5 June 2009

Housing association's young people take ownership for where they live



A group of Melin Homes' younger residents have formed a community forum to help make a positive difference to their neighbourhoods.

Fourteen young people from Abergavenny, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen were invited to take part in the forum by the housing association's Community Development Officers. The Officers have worked with these young people on numerous occasions during their community activity sessions and are confident that they will make a valuable contribution

The young people, aged between ten and eighteen, will now meet on a regular basis to discuss issues affecting their communities and organise activities to improve the areas where they live. Issues they plan to discuss include after-school activities, recycling and clean-up projects and anti-social behaviour.

Courtney Connor, one of the members from the youth forum, said: "I was really happy to be asked to take part. I'm looking forward to helping my community become a more exciting place for young people to live, and also helping to

improve the communities for other members of the forum too. Our first task though is to think of a great name for the forum!”

Alan Hughes, Melin’s Community Development Officer, said: “The aim of the Melin’s youth forum is for our younger residents to take ownership for where they live. It’s a really exciting time for all involved as this is the first real opportunity for our younger residents, from a range of our communities, to actively address the issues that are important to them. I have every confidence in these 14 remarkable youngsters and am sure that the initiative will be a great success.”

The long-term objective of the youth forum is for the young people to develop a network of external partners that can help them address the issues affecting their community, and also work with Melin’s Residents’ Panel to learn from their experiences and address relevant issues together.

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Photo caption:

Youngsters will take ownership for where they live.

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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