



Press Release

7 October 2008

Melin welcomes new rural residents

Melin Homes celebrates the opening of their newest housing scheme in Crickhowell this week when Kirsty Williams AM welcomes the families to their new homes.

The 24 new homes at Mynydd Gerdd were built after a survey of local people demonstrated a huge need for affordable housing in the area.

The development comes as house prices continue to grow out of the reach of young families from the area. In a recent property study Powys was found to be the least affordable of all the rural Welsh local authorities with average house prices 7.5 times the local annual earnings.

Melin worked in partnership with the Brecon Beacons National Park and Powys County Council on the development which has resulted in helping local people stay in the area.

As a designated Rural Exception site the properties are available exclusively for local people.

The new homes have given families like Alex Norris's the opportunity to start a brand new family life.

Mr Norris works locally and until they were allocated a property by Melin Homes he and his girlfriend and their young son, lived with his mother and his siblings. Open market rental prices in the area meant they couldn't afford to move out and there were 10 people sharing his mother's house. Now expecting their second child the family are able to make a home of their own on the Melin site.

Local butcher Richard Stradling and his girlfriend have also been given the opportunity for a new start with Melin.

Richard said: "We found out that we were expecting our first child and so would have had to move from our privately rented one-bedroom flat in town. It

was a worry thinking about where we would be able to afford to rent in the area and we didn't want to move as we both work locally, so Melin really meant that we could stay in the area.”

Kirsty Williams AM for Brecon and Radnor said: “It is fantastic to see the work that’s going on here. Affordable housing is desperately needed in the area. I have spoken to many constituents and young families in Crickhowell who need a place to live, and what Melin is providing is essential housing in a fantastic location.”

Chief Executive of Melin Homes Mark Gardner said: “We are thrilled that the families at Mynydd Gerdd have chosen to live in a Melin Homes property and were delighted to have worked with the local authority and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to provide them with excellent quality homes.”

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For more information please contact; Helen Ball on 01495 745920 or email me at helen.ball@melinhomes.co.uk

Notes for editors: Melin Homes is a registered social landlord with 2,700 properties across Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Newport, Blaenau Gwent and Powys. We provide affordable homes for rent and sale. For further information please visit www.melinhomes.co.uk