



## **Press Release**

**25.09.08**

### **Politician backs affordable housing scheme.**



Melin Homes staff were joined by Nick Ramsay AM to welcome residents to new high-quality, affordable homes in Thornwell, Chepstow.

The 15 properties are built on a private development at The Chase and have offered a number of households' affordable accommodation, which has been particularly welcome as the credit crunch bites.

Families and single people have now moved into the three and two bedroom houses and one-bedroom flats that were built by Taylor Wimpey for Melin Homes.

Paula Whittle, 40, moved into her new home in August this year and until then had been living with her parents. The new development gave her the opportunity to finally get a place of her own.

She said: "I wanted my own space but I also wanted to stay in the area and house prices in Chepstow were so high I don't know when I would have been

able to afford one. This Melin property has meant a fresh start for me. Without housing associations like Melin I don't know where we would be."

Melin Homes provides low-cost, affordable homes to rent and buy throughout south east Wales and this development is the latest in the area to welcome residents.

Melin is also currently building six new homes at Portskewett and 14 in Goytre and 5 in Abergavenny, the housing association are also due to start work on 35 new properties in Chepstow and Caerwent.

Mark Gardner Chief Executive of Melin Homes said: "We are thrilled that more residents have chosen a Melin home and we aim to continue to be a major provider of affordable homes and quality services meeting the huge need for housing in our communities."

Nick Ramsay AM said: "As house prices in Monmouthshire continue to rise, it is important that we look to promote high quality and affordable housing schemes in the right location.

"In the current economic climate there are fewer numbers of first-time buyers managing to get on the property ladder and in many rural areas young people have no choice but to move away from the communities they grew up in.

"Good quality housing is also crucial to delivering an effective and competitive economy in Monmouthshire and across Wales. Associations such as Melin are well positioned to increase the supply of housing, which is something I welcome."

**Photo caption:** Nick Ramsay AM welcomes Paula Whittle to her new home.

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