

**Press Release
January 5 2008**

£1 million investment in local supported housing scheme



Work is well underway on Melin Homes' redevelopment of Spinks Court, a new Supported Living housing scheme in Abergavenny.

Supported Living provides varying levels of care and support for residents aged 55 and over, dependent on their individual needs, and enables them to continue to live independently.

The £1 million project will transform the former sheltered housing scheme, which was built in the 1970s and consisted of 31 bedsits, into 21 modern homes.

The new scheme will offer a mix of one and two bedroom apartments all equipped with the latest emergency alarm support technology, a communal lounge, hairdressers, visitor accommodation, new lift, scooter store and offices for on-site support staff. The new homes are intended for older people who already have or need some assistance from social services.

Melin is working in partnership with Monmouthshire Council on the development. Melin will provide the homes, tenancies and management of the scheme with the Council managing and delivering care packages to residents.

Alan Sinclair, Director of Housing at Melin, said: “Our refurbishment of the scheme will enable us to provide independent living in the 21st Century for older people with care requirements. The scheme is the first of its kind in Monmouthshire and demonstrates our on-going commitment to providing quality homes for those who need them.”

Cllr Brian Hood, Monmouthshire Council’s Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services, said: “This scheme will make an important contribution to improving the housing provision for older people in Monmouthshire. The accommodation will be flexible and high quality and will meet peoples’ current and on-going needs and ultimately support independent living.”

Work on the scheme is due to be completed in April 2009.

The Welsh Assembly Government has provided funding of £550,000 towards the project.

For further information, and to register your interest in applying for a home, please contact Andrew Burford, Abergavenny Community Care Team on 01873 735900.

ENDS

Photo caption: Representatives from Melin Homes and Monmouthshire Council visited the site recently to check on progress.

For more information about the open events, 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