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## PRESS RELEASE

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### New affordable homes unveiled in Alresford

Seven new homes have been completed in the rural market town of Alresford, providing affordable homes to people in the local community who otherwise would not be able to afford to live in the area.

The properties built by Linden Homes for First Wessex consist of: two three-bedroom homes and four one-bedroom flats which have all been let for affordable rent through the Winchester choice-based lettings service. In addition a two bedroom home which has been sold through First Wessex's shared ownership scheme makes up part of a larger Linden Homes development just off Grange Road.

This latest development of affordable homes has provided couple David and Rachel Godlement with the home they have been waiting for in the area that they have worked for years, but sadly had previously been priced out of the housing market. The two-bedroom shared ownership property is their first step onto the property ladder in an area they thought they could only dream of living. Rachel explains:

"As a teacher in Winchester I need to live close to the school where I teach. Winchester and the surrounding towns and villages are very affluent areas and without shared ownership we would be saving for another five years or more for a deposit for a home. Alresford was the area that we ultimately wanted to live, it was our dream location; and when this property came onto the market we couldn't believe our luck."

Peter Walters, Chief Executive of First Wessex added:

"We are very pleased to be able to provide new affordable homes in a desirable area of Hampshire, where residents otherwise may not be able to afford to live."

These homes are built to a tremendous standard and are a great example of our ongoing strong partnerships with Winchester City Council and Linden Homes.”

The project has been completed through First Wessex’s partnership with Winchester City Council to provide affordable homes across the borough and Linden Homes, with whom we have built affordable homes across the Eastleigh and Southampton boroughs previously.



Rachel and David Godlement unveil their new home with help from Tony Boyle, Chair of Atlantic Housing.

**-ENDS-**

This year First Wessex has provided Winchester City Council with 32 new affordable homes for either general needs rent, intermediate rent or shared ownership. In 2010 First Wessex plans to provide Winchester City Council with a further 53 new homes for general needs rent and shared ownership.

**For more information please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors**

First Wessex Housing Group manages around 17,000 affordable homes primarily in Hampshire and with some activity in Surrey.

The group comprises Atlantic Housing Limited, First Atlantic Housing, Pavilion Housing Association, Portsmouth Housing Association, Fernhill Care Limited and Wessex Property Limited.

Portsmouth Housing Association: provides homes in Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport and Havant. It also provides a wide range of community regeneration services across South East Hampshire.

Atlantic Housing and First Atlantic Housing: provide a full range of affordable housing including rented, supported, shared ownership and key worker housing. A large support portfolio includes housing for older people, extra-care housing, dementia care housing, housing for people with learning disabilities, people recovering from mental illness and some specialist accommodation. They cover a geographic area spanning Eastleigh, Southampton, Winchester and the New Forest.

Pavilion Housing Association: the largest provider of housing association homes for rent in the Aldershot, Farnborough, Ash and Farnham areas.

Fernhill Care: provides care services for tenants of First Wessex Housing Group and other landlords and for individuals in the community with support needs. It specialises in domiciliary, extra- and dementia care.

Wessex Property Limited: the group's in-house repairs and maintenance organisation.

[www.firstwessexhg.co.uk](http://www.firstwessexhg.co.uk)  
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