

## Fuel poverty

# Pioneering project praised by Carwyn Jones

**A** PIONEERING project launched by Warm Wales Cymru Gynnes at a Wales & West Housing Association (WWHA) retirement scheme to help tackle the issue of fuel poverty has been given the thumbs up by First Minister, Carwyn Jones.

The project, at The Beeches retirement complex in Bridgend, is the result of a partnership between Warm Wales, West Wales Housing Association (WWHA) and Wales and West Utilities Ltd (WWU), and kicks off the fuel-poor initiative which is to be rolled out across Wales.

"I am delighted that this scheme to bring cost-effective warmth to those who live at The Beeches in Bridgend has been so successful," said Mr Jones, AM for Bridgend.

"I understand this is the first such project in Wales and I am pleased I was able to help the residents in kick-starting the project."

Phil Roberts, chief executive of Warm Wales, said: "We are delighted that Ofgem and Wales & West Utilities have forged these arrangements for households in Wales and the south-west of England.

"We believe that the arrangements will provide the missing link in the funding chain for many households."

Graham Edwards, WWU's chief executive,



**WARM WALES  
CYMRU GYNNES**

said: "This is a positive step forward in addressing the issue of fuel poverty and we are delighted to have worked with Warm Wales and Wales & West Housing Association in ensuring that this local retirement complex is one of

the first to benefit from the scheme."

The fuel-poor scheme, to extend WWU's gas network to fuel-poor communities and individuals who have previously not been able to benefit from a connection to gas mains, comes after agreement with Ofgem. Warm Wales will be working with WWU to help deliver the initiative.

The project involved connecting the 20-year-old flats to the mains gas supply, removing electric storage heaters and hot water cylinders and replacing them with new energy efficient, combination and condensing boilers and new central heating systems. These are fitted with thermostatic radiator control valves, timers and programmers. The boilers allow for separate temperature control of the heating and hot water temperatures, and the programmer is can be used by people with impaired sight.

Warm Wales brought together a package of funding and the key partners to enable the project to happen. The gas work (service connections and pipes) would normally cost



First Minister Carwyn Jones launches the Beeches scheme with residents and project partners

just over £30,000 but was 100% funded from the new grant scheme offered by WWU.

Residents qualified for grant aid on various grounds and further grants reduced the cost of the new heating systems significantly.

The work was completed within six weeks and a formal opening took place at which First Minister Carwyn Jones and the project partners celebrated with the residents.

### What makes Warm Wales different?

Warm Wales Cymru Gynnes is a registered community interest company and operates on a not-for-profit basis. It reinvests its

business savings in the projects it carries out and within the communities where it works to bring a legacy of positive achievement.

It offers consultancy, project management and grant funding advice and services. Warm Wales believes it offers a unique blend of knowledge, expertise and access to funding to the private individual, and to the social housing sector in Wales.

**■ If you want to know how Warm Wales Cymru Gynnes might be able to help you call 01639 825960, visit [www.warmwales.org.uk](http://www.warmwales.org.uk) / [www.cymrugynnes.org.uk](http://www.cymrugynnes.org.uk) or e-mail [enquiries@warmwales.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@warmwales.org.uk)**