



*Pictured above left:* The new housing development at Sexton Street in Limerick will comprise 35 units of accommodation.

*Pictured above right:* The award-winning housing development at Regent House in Kilkenny.

## The Award Goes to... Newgrove Housing!

**“ ABSOLUTELY LOVE MY NEW HOME. IT'S** been a brilliant change in my life," says Sighile Hennessy (age 36) who last May moved into her new apartment at the award-winning Regent House on William Street in the heart of Kilkenny city.

The Newgrove Housing Association supported living apartments at Regent House recently won the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH) 'Community Housing Award'. In partnership with RehabCare, Newgrove Housing Association provides sustainable community-based accommodation facilities in locations throughout Ireland for people with disabilities and others who are marginalised.

The housing project comprises six apartments and is close to Kilkenny's community amenities. Currently there are seven people living at Regent House but, at full capacity, it will enable up to 17 people with disabilities to start new, more independent lives, while also accessing supports from RehabCare to facilitate this.

Sighile continues, "I never thought I'd be able to leave the family home. But look at me now! I'm living independently, right in the heart of Kilkenny city. Everything is within walking distance and it's made such a difference to my life. I have much more freedom and choice now. I regularly go out for dinner and drinks with my two flatmates and I've even started Spanish classes."

Kevin Lunny, Housing Development Officer with Newgrove Housing Association, is thrilled that the project has been recognised. "Everybody associated with the Regent House project is delighted to receive this award, which rewards excellence in the provision of social housing and showcases how innovative design can create a positive impact on the lives of residents, the local community and the wider environment."

Regent House is also home to both a RehabCare resource centre and a National Learning Network training centre, offering a full range of social care and training services to people with disabilities from the city and its environs.

It is certainly a busy time for the award-winning team at Newgrove Housing Association. Kevin Lunny continues, "Newgrove Housing is currently working on a number of major projects including a housing project in Sexton Street, Limerick, which in addition to a new RehabCare resource centre, will comprise 35 units of accommodation. The project is awaiting post-tender approval from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and we hope to progress to the construction stage in the very near future.

"Also in the pipeline is a project at Stradavoher in Thurles, which will comprise 11 units of accommodation, as well as a RehabCare resource centre. We anticipate starting construction towards the end of 2009." ■