HUNTER+PARTNERS

Planning Design Statement
Mr and Mrs M Gander
5 Upper Drive, East Preston

The proposal for 5 Upper Drive is to replace the existing residential dwelling, with a purpose built replacement dwelling, occupying approximately the same foot print as the existing building.

Mr and Mrs Gander's daughter Georgina, aged 6, is severely handicapped, suffering from cerebral palsy and is wheelchair bound. Her needs and requirements are very specific and require constant attention. It is the family's intention to appoint a live-in carer.

The design of the new dwelling has been specifically prepared to allow free movement both internally and externally for wheel chair use, with areas flowing into each other, providing both visual supervision and greater natural lighting to deeper areas of the plan.

The northern area of the ground floor plan is wholly dedicated to Georgina as both personal space and accommodation for her carer, whilst the remaining ground floor provides living space for all the family, with an additional bedroom at ground floor level for Georgina's parents with direct access to Georgina's bedroom for night supervision.

First floor accommodation allows for future family expansion, and separation as both parents and child become more independent. The provision of a lift to the first floor again allows total freedom of movement.

The orientation of the new building is predominantly the same as the existing building facing east west, whilst great care and attention has been given to both adjoining properties on the north and west boundaries by ensuring that all door and window openings are both limited and at ground floor level only. Further, the eaves levels to both adjoining boundaries has been restricted to reduce both visual impact and massing.

Front and rear elevations have purposefully been designed to a domestic scale with a blend of both gable and dormer windows to reduce massing but also to maintain a visual integration into the existing street scene, with a blend and mix of materials to match existing dwellings comprising of plain tiles, brick and render.

Vehicular access to the new dwelling is maintained via the existing entrance opening, albeit reformed to allow proper parking and turning facilities.