

10 Acre Close
Rustington
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN16 3PG

28 March 2022

Attn: Planning Case Officer
Arun District Council

Sent electronically

Dear Planning Officer,

Application for disabled home adaptations, front & rear extensions and loft conversion at the above address

As part of our planning application we thought it would be important to provide some background in terms of the need for the changes, and how this has led us to this design solution.

The need

Our daughter, [REDACTED] was diagnosed with [REDACTED]

and her syndrome has developed [REDACTED]

Practically, this means [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She requires 24/7 supervision and care for all her needs and to ensure her safety.

[REDACTED] requires a large amount of mobility equipment, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She also requires physiotherapy [REDACTED]

The house as a whole needs to function as an inclusive family home for us all – [REDACTED] brother, [REDACTED], and us as her parents. We also have overnight care support several times each week, and space is also needed for these visiting professionals.

We moved to a bungalow because as [REDACTED] grew, it was becoming dangerous to carry her up and down stairs [REDACTED]. It also gives her access to all family areas on one level.

In so much of our lives we face limitations, obstacles and exclusion. So many venues or attractions still do not have the facilities to accommodate [REDACTED] and our family. Of all places, our home should be able to provide the facilities she needs, enabling her full participation in family activities, and allowing her the space to grow towards a level of independence whilst also allowing us to live a full family life.

The design solution

The Community Occupational Therapy team have provided an outline Brief for the accommodation and equipment [REDACTED] needs for bed, bathing and personal care in the long term. They have also provided advice on doorway widths and turning circles for general access around the house. This brief has been included in the application pack.

[REDACTED] bedroom and bathroom provide the space she needs [REDACTED]

The master bedroom is next door to [REDACTED] room and allows parents to attend to [REDACTED] in moments, when she needs intervention during the night and there are no nurses on duty. The en-suite lends itself to adaptation as an accessible wet room, should either parent ever require it.

The kitchen and existing lounge have been combined to create an open-plan kitchen / dining space. This opens onto a living room area via sliding door. This creates easily accessible spaces with space for wheelchair manoeuvrability without the need to move furniture out of the way. Importantly, given [REDACTED] need for constant supervision, It also allows full line-of-sight for either parent when preparing meals, and around the living area.

It also provides future opportunity to install a ceiling hoist linking all living areas, enabling transfer between specialist furniture and floor mats for much-needed physio work, making the living space fully accessible.

Given the need for larger spaces at ground floor, there is a need to convert the existing loft to accommodate our son, a study for Dad who now works predominantly from home, and a playroom/spare bedroom for visiting family, nursing or carer support.

The plans submitted have taken a lot of time and energy to get right, and after several attempts we are so happy to have designs that provide a home that can truly be fit for our whole family, indefinitely.

Yours faithfully

David & Victoria Walter