

Disable Facilities Grant

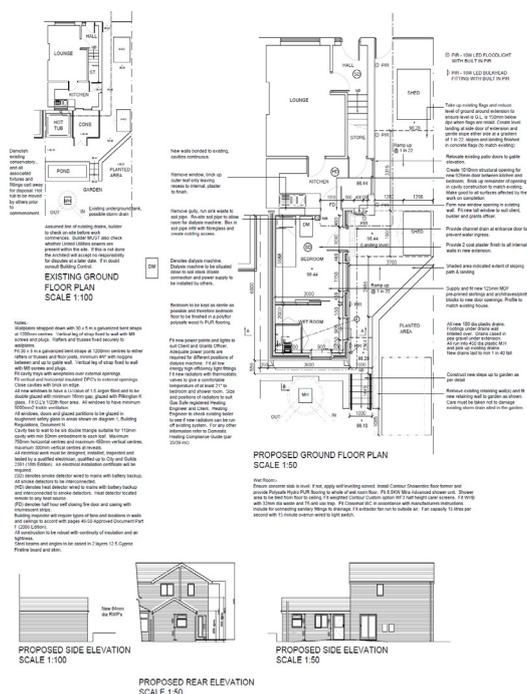
Scheme Design for Major Adaptation and Project Management on Site

Applicant needed property work completing to allow for greater privacy and enhanced care whilst at home

Overview

The applicant was a man in his early thirties who had recently become an amputee and was in need of daily dialysis due to kidney failure brought on by chronic diabetes. He was frequently admitted to hospital as a result of seizures and acute illness and was becoming increasingly incapable of being cared for at home. He was being cared for and given dialysis in his bedroom which was located on the first floor of the property and was being assisted whilst using the bathroom as a result of inadequate space and a lack of suitable sanitaryware and equipment. It was also difficult for the ambulance service to get the applicant out of the property in an emergency due to the frequent need of a stretcher and often having to negotiate the stairs.

A proposal had already been produced by another Architect which wasn't suitable to fully meet the needs of the client so Burnley Borough Council approached Liberata to review the design and produce a more suitable alternative.



The Challenge

To look at providing accessible bedroom and shower room at ground floor level which was suitable for wheelchair access. Make provision for a ceiling mounted track hoist to be retrofitted should one be required in the future. Provide a safe means of access and egress to and from the property, both for the applicant and the ambulance service in case of emergencies. Finally looking at providing access to the raised garden.

The Solution

Following our appointment Liberata reviewed the existing proposal which had already been granted approval and highlighted a number of issues with the extension and external works.

The retaining wall on the original drawings was inadequate to support the raised garden. Liberata procured the services of a Structural Engineer so that the retaining wall could be redesigned to support the adjoining earth. This was done during the construction phase without there being any delays.

The plans showed the extension being constructed on the line of the boundary fence adjoining the neighbour. This would have resulted in the foundations projecting onto adjoining land and legal issues under the Party Wall Act.

Liberata redesigned the extension to fit within the site by reconfiguring the internal layout. The spaces were reduced in size to ensure that the extension remained on the applicants land. The new layout ensured wheelchair access was possible to all ground floor areas. Suitable space was also provided for dialysis equipment and a track hoist should one be required at a later date.

The ramp was removed from the scheme and a gently sloping path was provided along the whole of the gable elevation to the property. This removed the need for handrails and meant that access to the outbuildings which housed fridges for critical medicine could be maintained during and after construction. It also ensured that level access was available to both the house and the extension for ambulant and wheelchair bound individuals.

Additional lighting was provided along the circulation areas around the house to improve safety, particularly during a medical emergency.

A schedule of works was tendered which included pre-construction information detailing the risks to occupants and operatives and the measures needed.

The successful contractor produced a construction phased plan containing robust risk assessments and method statements detailing the measures to be implemented, all of which were maintained throughout the construction phase.

The extension and associated external works were completed in 16 weeks with Liberata supervising work on site throughout the contract carrying out regular site visits and monitoring costs and quality.

The adaptation has proven to be life changing for the applicant, so much so that the scheme is currently the subject of a case study by the CCG who are monitoring the full extent of the impact the new facilities have made to the applicant and his family.

The Benefits

Improved mental and emotional wellbeing for the applicant and family

Reduction in hospital admissions, due to care being able to be given in the home

Easy access to the garden and external areas allowing applicant to spend time outdoors

Ability to cater for potential future care needs



"Stephen kept Burnley Council informed and updated throughout the process. The work encountered several issues, but Stephen found solutions to these issues. Stephen is always professional and wants the best result for the customer. This shows from the positive feedback received. If required Burnley Council have no hesitation in sending jobs to Stephen."

Paul Walker, Home Improvement Agency Manager, Burnley Borough Council

Contact us for more information

www.liberata.com

info@liberata.com

[020 7378 3799](tel:02073783799)

www.linkedin.com/company/liberata/