

20th August 2026

Dear Planning Officer,

Re: Honeydene, Heath Ride, Finchampstead, RG40 3QN – Proposed Accessible Extensions and Alterations

Please find enclosed a planning application for alterations and extensions to Honeydene to provide essential adaptations for the applicant, Christine Wilson.

The existing house was originally designed and built with Christine's disability and wheelchair use in mind. This was specifically recognised when planning permission for the replacement dwelling was granted in 2013, with the Case Officer noting Christine's need for full ground-floor facilities to accommodate wheelchair use.

Since the house was built, however, Christine's disability and mobility have worsened and her care requirements have increased. She is now a full-time power-wheelchair user and has recently been provided with additional specialist lifting equipment to assist with transfers and using the WC. The existing WC is simply not large enough to accommodate the new equipment, Christine's wheelchair and the carers assisting her. Her Occupational Therapist has confirmed the need for additional space to allow transfers and personal care to be carried out safely.

Access to the rear garden has also become increasingly difficult. The existing ramps are now too steep for Christine to use safely in her wheelchair, and the existing French doors are too narrow and difficult for her to operate independently. The existing openings cannot readily be adapted to provide the wide sliding doors that Christine now requires for easier wheelchair access.

The proposed extensions have therefore been designed specifically around Christine's changing needs. They will provide a new accessible WC with sufficient space for her wheelchair, lifting equipment and carers, together with a safer, more accessible route to the rear garden incorporating a level landing, gently sloping ramp and wide sliding doors.

Being able to access the garden is particularly important to Christine. Her home and garden are a very significant part of her day-to-day life, including being able to spend time outside with her dogs. As her mobility has reduced, having safe and practical access between her main living accommodation and the garden has become increasingly important.

It is also essential that Christine can continue living at the property while the building works are carried out. The extensions have therefore been designed, as far as reasonably possible, so that the majority of the construction can take place externally before the final openings into the existing house are formed. This will minimise the period of noise, dust and disruption within the parts of the house that Christine relies upon every day.

The proposed works are therefore not simply intended to provide additional accommodation or enlarge the house. **They are necessary adaptations resulting from Christine's increased mobility and care needs since the property was originally designed and built**, and are critical to allowing her to continue living safely and comfortably in her own home with as much independence, privacy and dignity as possible.



The application is supported by a statement from Christine and her husband, together with a letter from her Occupational Therapist explaining the need for the additional space and adaptations.

Given these particular circumstances, I would be grateful if significant weight could be given to Christine's accessibility and care requirements when considering the application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Emily Codrington RIBA
Reynolds Design Ltd