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Dear WBC Planning Department,

RE: Planning Application for Honeydene, Heath Ride, Finchampstead RG40 3QN

Client: Christine Wilson

I am writing in support of the above planning application and would like to give reasoning as to why adapting the existing layout would not adequately meet Christine's needs.

The current shower / bathroom needs to remain as it is for Christine's personal care needs. The existing layout works well for Christine apart from the accessing the toilet. Having a separate toilet will enable Christine to be transferred safely and will maintain her independence, privacy and dignity.

Occupational Therapy clinical reasoning for the need for increase space:

I have been working with my client, Christine Wilson, owner of the above property, since April 2024. Christine has secondary progressive MS (Multiple Sclerosis).

Since working with Christine her ability to stand independently has deteriorated and we have had to introduce specialist lifting equipment.

Christine has been issued with a Kera Sit 2 Sit. This is a floor based lifting device that can be transported and used in all the rooms on the ground floor and has the added advantage that it does not need to be charged. It can be used for transfers inside and outside the home by one person. The only drawback of this piece of equipment is that it requires additional floor space compared to an overhead hoist. (An overhead hoist would not be suitable for transfers because of the number of different areas of the property – inside and outside – where Christine needs to be transferred).

Unfortunately, it is not possible to carry out toilet transfers with the Kera in the current bathroom / shower room which is leaving Christine at risk of falls and her husband at risk of a back injury. Carers cannot be employed to assist because they too would be at risk of injury. This situation is not sustainable without increasing the floor space available.

The new design / layout proposed shows an additional toilet and living space close to Christine's bedroom that offers better circulation space for Christine's wheelchair, the Kera and one to two carers. NB Given Christine's deteriorating condition it is advisable future proof the property and to plan for the possible need for two carers. It offers space close to Christine's bed to enable increased privacy for personal care tasks.

The new design also shows better circulation space for rear access to the garden, garden room and lounge. Currently, from her bedroom Christine needs to negotiate the hallway, kitchen and dining room before reaching the lounge and access point to the garden.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Di Brown
Occupational Therapist
Occupational Therapy Team
Adult Social Care