ELawrence
PLANNING

CONFIDENTIAL

71 Hollingbury Gardens
Findon Valley
Worthing
West Sussex.

Personal Circumstances

Chartered Town Planner

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The reason the applicants need an extension are set out below.

In 2023 the applicant's mother was diagnosed with vascular dementia. The applicants immediately tried to sell their house to buy a slightly larger dwelling to enable their mother to live with them when she was no able to cope on her own. By September 2024 the house had not sold and the applicants mother needed to move in with them. Despite being physically fit she needed help with day-to-day tasks and it became unsafe for her to be on her own. She is now settled in and to move now would worsen her condition unnecessarily.

The applicants have three teenage sons and so to accommodate the whole family they need additional bedrooms and sitting out areas. The proposed first floor bedrooms would accommodate the applicants and their mother. The rear first floor bedroom would be occupied by their mother and includes an enclosed balcony where she can sit peacefully during the summer months.

It is incredibly important in circumstances such as this that the applicants, their children and their mother can find space on their own, both within the house and outside. It is also incredibly important to provide stability and continuity for their mother.

The proposed extension has been very carefully thought out to ensure that the family can remain together and are able to cater for their mother's increasing needs. The alternative would be that their mother would need to go into institutional care, which she and they do not want.

I appreciate that personal circumstances are not normally a planning matter. However, in circumstances such as this the courts have held that they are a material consideration of considerable weight.

In addition, The Equality Act 2010 sets out the Public sector equality duty as having due regard to the need to:

b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Having regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard in particular to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who not share it;
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Compliance with the duties outlined above may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The relevant protected characteristics above are defined as including age and disability.

Having "due regard" involves "consciously thinking about the three aims of the Equality Duty as part of the process of decision-making. This means that consideration of equality issues must influence the decisions reached by public bodies." (The Equality Act 2010).

The relevance of the Equality Act 2010 to the applicants and their needs are quite clear. If you require further evidence to ensure that you are fully informed please let us know.