
Laura Bibby
Gatehouse Farm
Gatehouse Lane
Goddards Green, Hassocks
BN6 9LE
laura.bibby1@nhs.net
07729 494525

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Planning Department
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands, Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

Subject: Access Statement – Planning Application for Oak-Framed Garage with Office Above

Site Address: Gatehouse Farm, Gatehouse Lane, Goddards Green, Hassocks, BN6 9LE

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am submitting this Access Statement in support of my planning application for the erection of a two-storey oak-framed garage with an office and accessible bathroom above, located at the above address.

As the applicant, I am a disabled person, and the proposed development has been carefully designed to accommodate my current and future accessibility needs. The following provisions have been integrated into the proposal:

- **Internal Access:** The staircase will be constructed with appropriate width and configuration to accommodate a stairlift, ensuring independent access to the first floor.
- **Inclusive Design:** The office and bathroom will be designed in line with Part M of the Building Regulations. This includes adequate circulation space, accessible doorways, a compliant W.C. and shower room, and supportive features such as grab rails and lever taps.
- **External Access:** The garage will be positioned for level or gently sloped access

from the extended driveway, minimising physical barriers and promoting ease of entry.

- **Parking and Circulation:** The double garage and extended driveway will provide ample space for vehicle manoeuvring and access, including for those using mobility aids.

This development forms part of a wider effort to reintroduce a garage facility previously lost through nearby development, while also creating a functional home office space. The garage has been designed in keeping with the 1920s farmhouse character of the property, using red brick, oak framing, and clay roof tiles.

The building will be situated to the south-west of the dwelling, set back and screened by existing hedging, with a design that respects both the visual character of Gatehouse Lane and the amenities of neighbouring properties.

This proposal demonstrates thoughtful and inclusive design, providing much-needed working space and supporting my long-term independence. I hope the Council will support this application in recognition of its careful planning, alignment with accessibility principles, and respectful integration within the rural setting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is needed.

Yours faithfully,
Laura Bibby