



PLANNING SUCCESS FOR GLEBE COURT, ENFIELD

We are delighted that our alterations and extensions design for Christian Action's Glebe Court has been granted Planning Permission. The site is adjacent to a Grade II listed church and we had to demonstrate that no harm would be caused to the identity or setting of the church within the streetscape. The approved design follows extensive consultation with the church and the scheme residents.

Glebe Court, is currently an affordable development of 28 bedsits in two blocks providing retirement/sheltered housing for the over 55's, with poor facilities and no level access. We have increased the size of the units so that each has an accessible bathroom with level access shower, extra storage, new kitchen, larger lounge/dining area and sliding partition doors to screen off the bedroom area. Level access and wider entrances are provided throughout.

The smaller block ground floor extension provides improved communal facilities including a new lounge with kitchenette, office and laundry. A lift and level access galleried walkways integrated into the scheme provide covered entrances to all apartments.

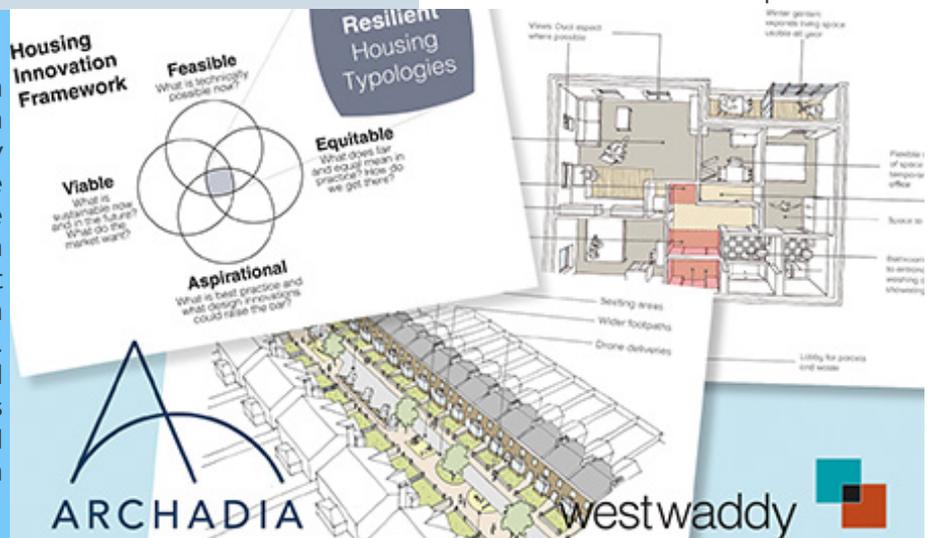
SUCCESSFUL BIDS

Two joint bids with our sister company West Waddy-ADP have been successful. The first was a competition to design housing for Stroud District Council's new housing schemes where our bid was selected as the highest quality submission from over 30 companies and we have already commenced work on sites in Dursley and Cam for the Council who have ambitious plans for housing regeneration with an emphasis on energy efficiency and creative architecture.

Our second successful bid has placed us on a framework of eight architectural companies for Spelthorne Borough Council who have various housing and urban development projects in the pipeline over the next few years.

ROUND TABLE SESSION

Prompted by the pandemic, we ran a virtual round table discussion with our sister company West Waddy with the aim of improving the design of housing post Covid. We presented our findings on isolation in residential settings whilst West Waddy gave a presentation on 'Urban Design for a Pandemic'. Discussions and feedback followed from some of our clients to address issues/concerns on isolation and social distancing so that we can feed these into our future designs.

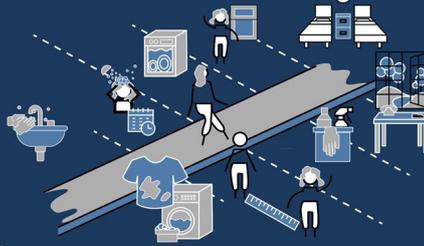


We have reflected on the issues that have been exacerbated by the pandemic

We feel there is room for improvement in housing both thorough retrofit, new build and extensions.

We believe it is time to act

We can review our design priorities and focus on creating housing which is mainstream accessible, inclusive for both physical and mental wellbeing.



HOUSING LIN HAPPI HOUR

We were delighted to be invited to present our Accessible Design: Lessons Learned from Covid findings at Housing LIN's HAPPI Hour last month. The pandemic forced Housing LIN to abandon all events. To replace these, they created a new HAPPI Hour brand offering free showcase events in a series of webinars. They re-framed their Annual Conference Agenda and organised a week long programme - **Summit 2020 Reaching to the Top**, consisting of ten HAPPI Hour sessions.

DOUBLE CONGRATULATIONS FOR KATHRYN:

Kathryn Thomas (now Kathryn Gundry) has had a lot to celebrate in recent weeks. First, she married her long term partner and just managed to fit in a honeymoon before the November lockdown. Secondly, she won the Habinteg 2020 prize essay competition where entrants were asked to submit essays that considered what the next 50 years might bring in the realm of accessibility. Her essay, which outshone all other submissions, calls for a re-evaluation of town planning, greater emphasis on inclusion and accessibility and an evaluation of national policy to ensure accessible housing is delivered in all new developments. She attended a virtual presentation where she met Baroness Celia Thomas and Lord Jamie Borwick who are urging people to respond to the government's consultation on accessible housing standards. It is only by taking part in these consultations that we can move toward achieving Accessible Homes for the future.

CERTIFIED PASSIVHAUS DESIGN

Our Architectural Associate, Ewan Green recently sat the Passivhaus exam after completing an intensive week-long training course delivered by the BRE. Passing the exam will certify Ewan as a Passivhaus Designer equipped with the knowledge and skills for Passivhaus Design as we move towards a zero carbon goal for new housing to achieve genuine emissions reductions.

