

## **STATEMENT FROM CLLR SUSAN CHARLES (CORSTON PARISH COUNCIL)**

### **ACCESSIBLE PLANNING**

My suggestion/request is:

" To Reform Design in the Planning Process and Construct Accessible Homes for All new build at the Onset."

Thus, saving the extra costs at present to the NHS and Social Service departments.

Grand Designs last June featured a couple who planned to build a new home as one had suffered a stroke in their fifties, and now a wheelchair user. Kevin McCleod asked 'what the most important features we're needed in this new build" views, decor, kitchen worktops were not the most important.....

Access was.....

They asked for:

1. Level access throughout.
2. 80cm wide doorways.
3. An accessible bathroom for w/chair use.
4. Light and power point switches 90cms from the floor.
5. Light stairways.

Six changes that would enhance their new way of life.

Of course, strategically placed joists for a lift shaft could be incorporated in the original plans..... in case.

A movable bathroom wall creating more space ...in case.

A bath could be replaced with the previously prepared level access wet room. ...in case.

We are a growing older population, with long operating and treatment waiting lists ...bed blocking.... lack of care home space.....couples being split due to lack of access within the family home, causing mental and practical challenges for all around you because you cannot leave hospital and go home.

Statistics say:

50% of the population will receive a long or short term disability in their life time.

£72 billion lost into the local economy per year, due to lack of access in homes and public transport for the mobility challenged.

**WE ARE ALL ONE DIAGNOSIS AWAY FROM NEEDING AN ACCESSIBLE HOME AND TRANSPORT.**

Independence and dignity can be lost. Imagine all that entails moving home, alterations, the upheaval, the cost, all at a time when you and those around you are coming to terms with a new way of life.

Access planned at the onset for ALL new build homes could be readily available if needed, with no need to move. Not everyone can or wants to downsize to a multi-purpose complex like the Chocolate Quarter as practical and nice as it is.

I know many who already worry about how they would manage "IF "

**WE ARE ALL ONE DIAGNOSIS AWAY FROM NEEDING ACCESSIBLE HOMES AND TRANSPORT.**

Thank you for your time.

PLEASE. .

Take a moment, close your eyes and imagine..... how would you get out of this building without use of your legs and eyes?