

Personal Statement

It is my hope that this planning proposal can be viewed in its entirety.

Firstly, of course looking at the design proposal in question. Secondly, considering the positive impact this home will have on our growing family. Thirdly, the positive impact we can have on our community.

Our plan has always been to design and build a home to the highest standard, which doesn't compromise on quality or design and going forward acts as a link between what is brilliantly old in Gattonside and showcases more of what is brilliantly new. This is a design which has environmental impact at its heart. Our aim is not to create something new and try and make it look old, we aim to build something beautiful, sustainable, long lasting, unassuming - taking backstage in order to showcase the beautiful landscape it surrounds, a home we can live in happily until old age which is sustainable to our ever changing climate.

We are therefore working with a local architect who has designed similar style properties in both Gattonside and Melrose and was commended for her work by Heritage and Design at their 2016 design awards. We are also working with a local builder who is well known for their high quality builds, lives in Gattonside and built the neighbouring Tweedlodge.

We have always dreamt of building our forever house and have therefore spent over a year planning this family home. I feel we have considered every possible aspect very carefully before bringing it forward for planning. Including buying the land to the East in order to ensure the house always benefits from the agricultural views it currently has.

Some of the key focuses for us were:

- how we create a home with space for our growing family, which works for us now, and far into the future
- how we accommodate working from home, balancing working and raising children and reducing our daily commute where possible
- how we create an up to date design which best uses technology to reduce our carbon footprint - including solar panels and potential ground source heat pump.
- how we reduce the impact on surrounding properties and landscape as much as possible while still achieving a space that works internally
- how we position windows and doors so that they do not invade privacy of neighbours but maximise on light and views while reflecting the greenery that surrounds them
- how we use planting and reclaimed brick to envelope our simple, natural design ensuring it looks as if its always been there

We are very community focused and already have very close friends and family in Gattonside and the surrounding area. Our children go to Melrose Primary School and my husband moved his business from Edinburgh to Galashiels a number of years ago. As a former Primary Teacher I understand the impact a thriving community can have on all residents and know that

Gattonside has always prided itself on community spirit and their ability to come together to support and improve the village. I also know many of the long standing residents who have been part of this good work are keen to hand over responsibilities to younger families. We know we could offer this. We also have good links with the Hoebridge restaurant and have discussed with them the possibility of using part of our land to grow produce for the restaurant.

Hopefully we have demonstrated why this house, its design and us, the family who are creating it are right for the village of Gattonside.

Amy & Robin Purdie