

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT- BC PP IW 004

NEW SHOPFRONT & 24HR COLLECTION ROBOT TO PONTARDAWE PHARMACY

Proposal Overview

This application seeks to install an automatic prescription collection robot as part of a new shopfront within the Neath Port Talbot County Council jurisdiction. The proposed installation will support enhanced pharmaceutical services by providing 24/7 access to prescription collection. The new shopfront will be designed to ensure accessibility for all users, with a focus on compliance with local planning policies and building regulations.

Relevant Planning Policies

This proposal aligns with the following policies within the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan (LDP):

1. **Policy BE1: Design**
 - The installation will contribute positively to the streetscape with a modern and well-integrated design, ensuring it complements the surrounding environment.
2. **Policy SP20: Accessibility**
 - The shopfront prioritizes accessibility, ensuring ease of use for all members of the community.
3. **Policy SP15: Sustainable Development**
 - The automation system minimizes human resource requirements and supports efficient pharmaceutical distribution, enhancing sustainability.

Design Details

1. Shopfront Appearance

- The shopfront will feature a contemporary design using high-quality materials to maintain an aesthetically pleasing frontage.
- The prescription robot will be discreetly integrated into the façade, designed to match the shopfront style and avoid visual intrusion.
- Signage will be appropriately scaled to indicate the location and purpose of the collection robot without detracting from the overall design.

2. Accessibility

- A level access pathway will lead to an automatic sliding door, ensuring the shopfront is fully accessible to wheelchair users, individuals with mobility challenges, and parents with pushchairs. The previous shopfront was not accessible to wheelchair users due to a step on the entrance and a manual swing entrance door. Therefore, the new shopfront makes the pharmacy more accessible to all members of the local community.

- The automatic prescription collection robot will be installed at an ergonomic height, compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, to accommodate users of varying abilities.

3. Lighting and Security

- Integrated lighting will provide adequate illumination for safe nighttime use without causing light pollution or disturbance to neighboring properties.
- The robot will be securely integrated, with built-in surveillance measures (e.g., CCTV) to deter vandalism and ensure the safety of users.

Access Details

1. Public Access

- The shopfront will offer a welcoming entrance with a wide, automatic sliding door to accommodate all users.
- Clear signage and instructions for the prescription robot will ensure intuitive use.

2. Inclusive Design

- The robot's interface will feature large, easy-to-read text to support users with visual impairments.
- The level access ensures barrier-free entry for users with limited mobility.

Justification and Benefits

The installation of the prescription collection robot meets the evolving needs of modern pharmaceutical services while adhering to Neath Port Talbot County Council's policies on design and accessibility. It offers:

- **Improved convenience:** 24/7 access to prescription services for the local community.
- **Enhanced accessibility:** Thoughtful design prioritizing inclusivity and ease of use.
- **Contribution to public health:** Promoting timely and efficient prescription collection, particularly beneficial in rural or underserved areas.

Conclusion

This proposal represents a thoughtful and well-integrated addition to the shopfront that aligns with the policies and objectives of Neath Port Talbot County Council. The design emphasizes sustainability, inclusivity, and functionality, ensuring it benefits the community while enhancing the character of the streetscape.

This document is prepared to support the planning application and to demonstrate compliance with relevant policies and standards.