

PLANNING DIVISION INFORMATION SHEET 2.8 SHOPFRONTS AND SECURITY SHUTTERS

A guide to good design

Security shutters and grilles have an impact on the appearance of commercial areas. The extent of impact depends upon the care taken to find appropriate solutions that preserve the character, attractiveness and economic viability of the local area. Our aim is to ensure against harmful or inappropriate installations, with particular reference to the appearance of the building when the premises are closed.

There may be other ways to design out crime in your area. Consider all options for security such as toughened glass, cameras, lighting, internal shutters and grilles or strengthening the shopfront. One or more of these interventions could prove effective and save money.

- **Internal fixed, removable or retractable grilles or shutters**
Don't normally require planning permission
- **Laminated or toughened glass and anti-shatter film**
Don't normally require planning permission
- **External grilles or shutters**
Normally require planning permission

Types of shutters

Removable grilles, gates or timber shutters removed when premises are open. Grilles allow clear views into premises while solid shutters do not. Gates are a traditional way of preventing anti-social activity in recessed doorways.

Roller shutters move vertically within a fixed frame and retract into a boxed housing. The design and fixing of the frame and boxed housing must not detract from the appearance of the shopfront. A powder coated surface treatment is necessary to provide a coordinated colour finish.

Solid roller shutters present a blank and unwelcoming appearance when closed. They often attract graffiti and dirt, which in turn creates an image at odds with attractive and successful business operations. They are rarely deemed acceptable.

Perforated (pin hole) roller shutters have small holes that allow very limited views through. Generally they have the same effect as solid shutters and are not generally acceptable.





Open Lattice roller shutters have an open appearance allowing good views into the premises for surveillance and displays when the premises are closed. Shutters can include a solid section at the base in line with shop stall riser.

Polycarbonate slatted roller shutters are becoming popular for larger store entrances. These are robust closures useful when there is no stall riser, allowing views into the premises when the store is closed.

PLANNING PERMISSION is normally required when there is a material change to the external appearance of a building such as the addition of a shutter. Please be aware of policies BE19 and BE20 in the Council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (available on our website) and any local supplementary design guidance. Particular attention is given to conservation areas and listed buildings where the Council have an obligation to protect special interest and local character.

Shutter design should:-

- relate to the building and avoid an 'added on' appearance
- cover principally glazed areas and stall risers only
- avoid original shopfront features and details
- be painted to match the shopfront

Shutter box design should:-

- be neatly contained or recessed within the shopfront
- reflect the scale and design of the shopfront and host building
- not be overly obtrusive or dominant
- be colour coordinated to match the shutter and the shopfront

Crime prevention

The government publication, 'Safer Places: the Planning System and crime prevention' (2004) promotes a holistic consideration for each location. A key principle is to seek individual solutions to local problems. The message given is that good quality design can create secure communities. All security measures (including lighting, internal shutters, cameras, shopfront strengthening and toughened glass) should be considered before submitting a planning application. Every attempt should be made to achieve security without causing visual harm. Poorly considered solutions may indeed create, confirm or reinforce a fear of crime.

Further information

For further information please contact the Planning Division at planning@bromley.gov.uk or by telephone on 020 8313 4956, or write to us at the Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH

Security advice is also available from the Metropolitan Police Crime Prevention Officer at Bromley Police Station.

This form is also available upon request in large-print format.
Issued by the Planning Division July 2004 Updated June 2011

