This guide has been produced to help shop owners within Daventry district to reduce the risk of vandalism or burglaries, through the design and materials of their shopfronts.

Unfortunately with the persistence of crime targeted towards shops, there has been a consistent demand for extra security measures to be taken to combat the problem. However there are some measures that can have the opposite effect than desired.

This guidance shows effective measures that can be integrated into the design of shop fronts, and also measures that should be avoided.

Shops suffer from a variety of criminal activity including breaking and entering and ram-raids, but if the correct design approach is taken such crime can be effectively deferred.

This guidance also advises shop owners on what type of planning permission to apply for, and whether or not permission will be needed for the sort of work they intend to carry out on their shopfront. Questions such as ‘do I need listed building consent?’ or ‘does this grille need planning permission?’, are answered in this leaflet.

There is also advice on other security measures that can be implemented which go beyond shopfronts and involve a more co-ordinated approach between shopowners themselves.

Supplementary planning guidance by the
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
DAVENTRY DISTRICT COUNCIL.
SHOPFRONT SECURITY. THE SOLUTIONS...

So what security features should shop owners use in order to deter crime?

Well, a combination of features is usually the best means of making criminals think again; features like internal grilles; laminated glass, high reinforced stall risers and strengthened mullions, and recessed doorways, are an effective means of keeping crime at bay.

RECOMMENDED...

- **Laminated glass** is tougher than ordinary glass and can stay intact even when cracked or dented. Although expensive, it is cost effective in the long term.

- **Reinforced stall risers** are an effective means of resisting ram-raid attacks and can restore an attractive architecture and facade even at ground floor level.

- **Internal grilles** can be fitted inconspicuously, allowing for window shopping and surveillance, whilst not altering the outer appearance of the shop. However, internal grilles do not prevent the window from being broken.

- **External grilles** can be less ugly than shutters and also allow for window shopping and surveillance, though again they do prevent the window from being broken.

- **Mullions** strengthen the glass by providing additional support and are very effective when combined with laminated glass. They also reduce the size of the glass making it easier and cheaper to replace.

- **Recessed doorways** prevent a car being driven against it, improving both security and the overall appearance of the building.

AVOID THE FOLLOWING...

- **External roller shutters** should be avoided as they create a hostile environment, they probably do more to encourage crime and vandalism (graffiti) than they do to deter it. Creating a fortress-like atmosphere can create areas that look empty and appear deserted, these in turn become attractive to criminals. The feel they will not be detected. Shutters also eliminate any benefits from surveillance by stopping visibility into the shop, creating good cover for any burglars that might be inside.

- **Large areas of glass** facing the street can be very costly to repair if broken, and if taken right down to street level, can be vulnerable to ram-raid attacks.

- **Street furniture and ballards** can cause obstructions for entrances and particularly for the disabled.

- **External security measures** on listed buildings are almost always unacceptable, including solid, pinhole and punched shutters.

RIGHT ✅

In this diagram, the shop owners have got it right because they have used strengthened mullions and stall risers, and other features like an internal grille and a recessed doorway, so that they have effectively guarded against crime.

WRONG ✗

The shop owners in this diagram have got it wrong because glazing that drops to street level with weak mullions and low stall risers, is left vulnerable to ram-raids; solid shutters cancel out through visibility, offering cover to burglars and encouraging graffiti.
PLANNING PERMISSION.

External changes to shopfronts will usually require planning permission, likewise security features such as shutters and grilles, stall risers and the fitting of smaller panes of glass with reinforced mullions.

Internal changes such as roller grilles behind windows will probably not require planning permission.

Listed building alterations made inside and outside the building will require listed building consent and planning permission. External alterations to listed buildings are occasionally acceptable, provided that they maintain the basic character and appearance of the building.

Building regulation approval may be required for any alterations made to a shopfront or to the building in general.

HELP FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL.

Planning permission and various forms of consent will usually depend on a number of things relating to location, the type of building your shop is in, and the nature of the work you wish to carry out. It is always a good idea to contact the District Council (your local planning authority), and discuss your proposals with them.

For planning permission of any kind contact Daventry District Council's Planning Department on:
Tel: (01327) 871100 Fax: (01327) 300011 Minicom: (01327) 312844

HELP FROM YOUR LOCAL CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER.

Your local Crime Prevention Officer will be able to develop your awareness and knowledge about suitable crime prevention measures for your premises.

For further assistance, please contact the Crime Prevention Officer on (01327) 303110.

“SECURITY THROUGH DESIGN”