

Angus Council



ADVICE NOTE 10

**SHOP
WINDOW
SECURITY**

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INTRODUCTION

In 1978 Angus District Council introduced an Advice Notice on Shopfronts and Signs in Conservation Areas in an attempt to retain the character of the Angus town centre Conservation Areas. The policies contained in the Note (since revised and updated) have been instrumental in eliminating the worst excesses of the modern shopfitters.

However one aspect of shopfronts not covered by that Note and one that is gaining in popularity, is the desire on the part of shop owners to provide some form of security measure for their stock and even the windows themselves. At a time when vandalism and associated problems appear to be on the increase, the attractiveness of protecting costly plate glass windows and the valuable stock on display is easy to appreciate but the Council is of the view that such measures should not be counter productive to the aim of the earlier shopfront Advice Note and accordingly this Advice Note supplements the earlier Note in specifying the Council's policy on shop window security measures.

PLANNING POSITION

If a development involves a material change in the appearance of a shopfront then a planning consent is required. In the opinion of the Council, external screens - solid or open-mesh - necessitate a planning application, while internal devices do not require planning approval.

SECURITY MEASURES

A wide range of shop window security measures are available and this list is not intended to be comprehensive.

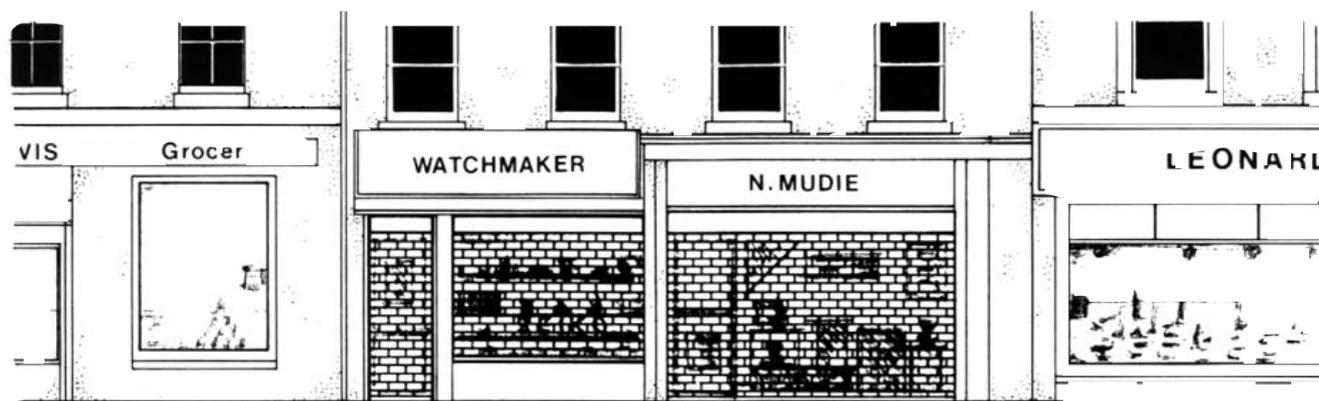
Undoubtedly the most visually acceptable is armoured plate glass which is virtually indestructible and, of course, undetectable from normal glass.

Probably the most popular are the various types of mesh screens lowered immediately behind the window during non-shopping hours. These are not visually offensive and still permit passers-by to look at the goods on display in the shop window.

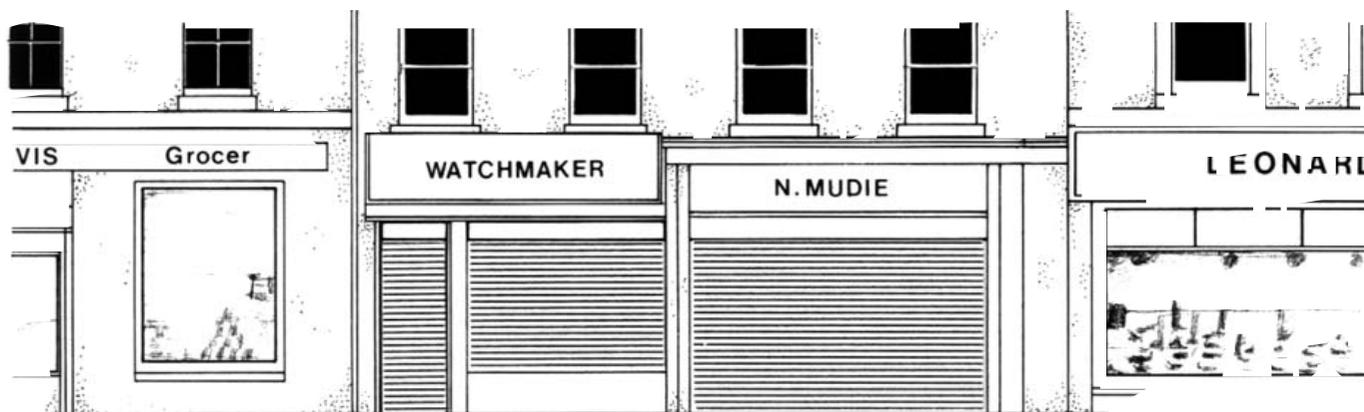
A number of these open-mesh type of screens are capable of being used externally, thus affording some protection to the glass itself whilst still permitting window shopping. Obviously these blinds are more visually intrusive than internal screens although not necessarily unacceptably so. Unless the rolled-up blind can be accommodated behind the fascia, a projecting storage box will be required which makes this type of screen less acceptable.

Undoubtedly visually most unacceptable is the solid metal roller blind again mounted behind the fascia or in a storage box attached to the fascia. They are reminiscent of industrial estate doors and give a blank, bleak, fortified appearance. There is no prospect for window shopping outwith normal hours and the inability to see inside, for instance by the police, can be a counter security measure.

ILLUSTRATIONS



Open-mesh type screen a balance between security and appearance.



Solid roller type blind - 'the fortified look'.

POLICY

There can be little doubt that certain shop window security measures can be damaging to the visual amenity but this needs to be balanced against the quality of the building itself, the neighbourhood and the fact that they are normally visible only outwith shopping hours. Nevertheless town centres tend to remain the most frequented areas of any town even outwith shopping hours.

The desire of certain shopkeepers to protect their property must also be respected wherever possible. The vulnerability of a shop depends on the location both in terms of the social make-up of an area and its remoteness from passing traffic and pedestrians.

A. Shops Outwith Conservation Areas: External open-mesh roller blinds will be acceptable but every effort should be made to integrate the storage box within the fascia. Solid roller shutter blinds may be permitted where sufficient evidence can be provided that other methods have been or are unlikely to provide sufficient protection (e.g. several previous window breakages or insurance company insistence). The Council will be particularly sympathetic in areas known to present social or vandalism problems.

B. Non-Listed Shops Within Conservation Areas: The District Council through its policies contained in Advice Note 2 on Shop Fronts is making an effort to enhance and improve the character of shops in Conservation Areas. The Council feels that the use of roller blinds is inconsistent with these efforts and will not therefore be acceptable. However, in addition to the various internal protection devices, external open-mesh grills would be acceptable for jewellers and electrical goods shops only, as long as a projecting storage box is not required.

C. Listed Buildings: Buildings are listed because of their age and intrinsic character and accordingly solid roller blinds are damaging to this character and are totally unacceptable. Indeed the Council will discourage the use of any external security measures unless of a traditional appearance (e.g. timber shutters of character NOT a solid featureless board of plywood!)