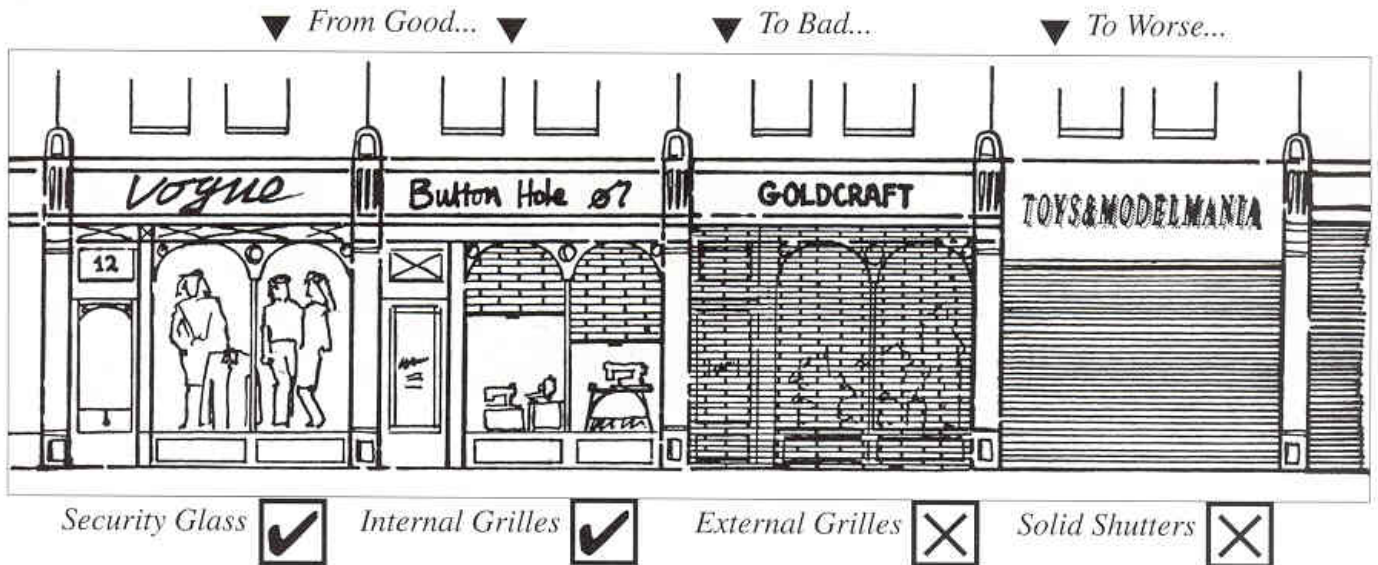


## Shopfront Security

The City Council recognises that, in some extreme instances, there is a need for shopkeepers to provide a higher level of protection

against theft and vandalism than would normally be required. However, it is also recognised that the installation of grilles and shutters can have

a seriously detrimental effect on safety and attractiveness for people using the street.



## Why Solid Shutters Are NOT Acceptable

These have the most seriously damaging effect. They make window shopping impossible outside shop hours and streets darker by cutting out display

lighting. They discourage pedestrian activity and therefore, rather than reducing crime, they increase the opportunities and attraction for

vandalism, theft and graffiti, in darker empty streets. They also provide a cover for intruders whilst they are inside the property.

## External Grilles

Where it is agreed that some form of external protection is unavoidable, open mesh blinds are considered to be less environmentally damaging

than solid shutters. The contents of the shop are still visible for window shoppers, and display illuminations can light the street. Intruders inside

the shop are visible from outside, and this could act as a deterrent against break-ins.

External grilles could be either demountable or on a roller. In the case of a roller, the box into which it retracts must be recessed behind the fascia board wherever possible. If this is not possible, the box should be clad in suitable materials so that it is unobtrusive. The grille and box must be installed and operated only within the shop opening, and must not cover any part of

pilasters, columns or fascia. When intended for use on new shopfronts, the grille and box must form part of the overall design, hidden behind the fascia. Care must be taken to ensure that this does not result in over deep or projecting fascia boards.

The grille itself should be of high quality material, such as brass, or have a suitably

coloured powder-coated paint finish, rather than raw aluminium.

External open grilles will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances, and will not be permitted in the conservation areas or on listed buildings, except possibly at door recesses.

### Internal Grilles

These have the same advantages as external grilles over solid shutters, with the additional benefit that they are even less visually damaging to

the street scene. Therefore, they are particularly useful in extreme cases within the conservation areas. When used in conjunction with security

glass, they normally provide a theft-proof shopfront security system.

### Security Glass

Laminated security glass can provide a good degree of protection against theft, and can act as a deterrent against repeated acts of vandalism. This measure of security has

the big advantage of being virtually indistinguishable from ordinary glass.

This is the most desirable option environmentally, and

the City Council will encourage its use, rather than grilles or shutters, in all but exceptional cases.

### Which Measures Require Planning Permission?

Internal grilles and security glass do not require planning permission. The installation of any kind of external grille requires planning permission,

and in the case of a listed building, Listed Building Consent will also be required.

The City Council is able to take enforcement action against security grilles which are installed without planning permission.