

Conservation area shopfronts

A number of businesses have fallen foul of the planning rules that apply in the conservation area.

Being in a Conservation Area does not mean that you cannot make alterations to your property, but it does mean that the changes that you may wish to make must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the building and the area as a whole. Shopfronts are obviously very visible and give any area a sense of its character.

Well-maintained Conservation Area town centre generally possess a far greater capacity to attract shoppers and visitors. It is also common for properties in well-maintained Conservation Areas to have a greater value than those outside.

Any changes to signs and shutters could be subject to planning as well as the overall design of the shopfront. Please check with the Council's Planning Service if you are in any doubt. They will be pleased to give you advice on where to look for specialist help to make sure that any work you propose will meet the requirements.

To avoid problems don't start works before taking advice and do talk to the Planning Service South Team on 020 8937 5377 / 5232 or 5231