

QD9 Boarding up of flats, shops and business premises

Planning permission will be granted for the boarding up of flats, shops and business premises provided the proposal:

- a. is for a temporary period;
- b. does not harm amenity and / or the shopping / business environment of the locality; and
- c. the boards are to be decorated with designs appropriate to their location in order to contribute to the surrounding environment.

- 3.39 It is recognised that there will be occasions, when properties become vacant for a temporary period and that windows and doors may need to be boarded up for security reasons. It is important that this is only taken as a temporary measure, for example, six months to a year. The longer-term solutions are to bring the premises back into use or, where appropriate, the redevelopment of the site. Conditions will be imposed on planning permissions limiting the proposal to a specified temporary period. The period of time granted will take into account the time needed to bring the site back into active use. Applicants will therefore be expected to submit details of the action to be taken to bring a property back into use and to provide the predicted timescales for such action.
- 3.40 The boarding up of premises has a significant impact on the building's appearance and on the surrounding area. Clusters of vacant boarded-up premises can result in a run down appearance, which can be detrimental to the visual amenity and vitality of the area respectively. In order to create and maintain a safe and attractive environment, which does not deter the public from using such locations, it is important the boards are appropriately decorated in a way that helps to maintain and if possible, contribute to the vitality and viability of the area. Enforcement action against insensitive boarding may be taken where the necessary consent has not been obtained.
- 3.41 Policy QD9 has particular links with the following in this Plan: the policies relating to design; shopshutters; shopfronts; public art; listed buildings; conservation areas; and, buildings of local interest.