



### **Reasons for the necessity of Shutters on 3, Crown Street.**

I have been a hairdresser for over twenty years. In July this year I opened my own gent's hairdressing business at 3, Crown street. Business began extremely well. However in September the large glass window at the front of the shop was smashed by a rock being thrown at it. The window is over 9 foot and the cost to replace such a panel with laminated toughened glass was over £2000.

Less than 3 weeks later the glass was again smashed along with one of the side windows, once again the rocks had been left at the scene. To secure the shop the call out Repair company replaced the missing panel with a wooden board. We were informed that the replacement panels would take a week to arrive. The following night someone broke into the salon through the wooden panel and using the child's cutting chair smashed all of the salon windows and units, nothing was stolen.

After discussions with the police they advised us to install cameras and alarms to catch or at least deter the perpetrator, which we did, We also paid extra for an operator service whereby if someone breaks into the shop then the alarm will alert the operator who will in turn phone the police. The windows were once again replaced, but within 3 weeks they were smashed again. The cameras recorded the person who committed the crime however they were covered up in order to conceal their identify, once again the windows were replaced within the week. However this time the windows had not been in place for even 12 hours when they were deliberately smashed again by the same person, Once again the cameras could not identify the perpetrator.

Within this time my house had also been targeted and brick had been thrown through both my front room window and my bedroom window while my partner and I slept.

The police and the community officers as well as my clients and staff from neighbouring shops all encouraged me to apply to get shutters placed at the windows as this appears to be the only deterrent to prevent the vandalism. We did discuss the option of a slatted front cover which could be removed during the day however the crime prevention officer felt that the intent to keep smashing the windows to disrupt my business was so great that an object could be passed through the grid to still reach the window in order to damage the panes, also due to the height of the window in order to cover it all would make the grid to heavy to take on and off on a daily basis.

Therefore I decided to apply to the council for shutters to be placed on the front of the shop in order to protect it. I completed a request form explaining how an urgent decision was needed as the shop windows were still all boarded up and I was reluctant to replace the glass as this would be the last time that my insurance would be prepared to offer payment for the replacement panels.

I received a voice mail two days later explaining that permission had been given for the shutters on the condition that a shutter would not be erected to cover the door entrance, and that a letter would be sent in the post to confirm the decision. I was relieved at the news and annoyed at myself for not putting shutters up earlier however I didn't think I would be given permission as I realised that 3, Crown Street is a listed building however after receiving the confirmation I went ahead and ordered and paid for three shutters to be placed on the bay window. We paid extra to ensure they were powdered black not just left a wrought iron grey colour in order for them to look more attractive.

As the completion of the shutters being placed on the bay window was coming to an end and everything was already attached I had a visit from Heather Grimshaw who advised me that permission had not been given, My ex partner accompanied her to the town hall believing it was a mix up and asking for a copy of the confirmation letter. However when the situation was resolved the confirmation letter was from the building regulations department not the regenerations department, I can only apologise for the misunderstanding but I genuinely believed that the correct permission had been granted.

Therefore in light of the current situation I must ask for your permission to allow the shutters to remain on the bay window at 3, Crown Street. I have tried ever alternative I can think of to protect my business and the property itself from acts of vandalism such as installing alarms and cameras etc and the community police carrying out extra patrol check on the shop during the evenings. Due to the windows being smashed four times in the period of 3 months I have a strong reason to believe that if the shutters are removed then the windows are at immediate risk of being smashed again and repeatedly thereafter, as well as any internal damage caused should the perpetrator gain access, which will not only be an eye sore for the community to continually have a boarded up shop in the centre of town but due to the expense involved will undoubtedly render me unable to continue with my business which will then place me in financial difficulty due to having a further 5 year lease hold on the property but being unable to provide a continuation of service.

Yours Faithfully



Mr Kevin Beattie

# DURHAM CONSTABULARY



*Aiming for*  
EXCELLENCE

Central House  
Gladstone Street  
Darlington  
DL3 6TW

**Ref:**

Blades  
3 Crown Street  
Darlington  
DL1 1LU

4<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you with regards to the above premises. I am a Police Community Support Officer in Darlington Town Centre and in the last 8 weeks I have visited Blades on numerous occasions. The proprietor, Mr Kevin Beattie, has suffered numerous incidents of criminal damage to both the interior and exterior of the salon.

The primary target of the damage is the large windows at the front of the salon, which have been smashed on three or four occasions in the early hours of the morning. This is very costly, unsightly and distressing for Mr Beattie and his employees. On my visits to Mr Beattie we have discussed various options as to how we can prevent further damage from happening, and on advice from the constabulary he has installed CCTV monitoring equipment which has captured some incidents of damage, but unfortunately has not acted as the deterrent it was hoped to be. I have also supplied Mr Beattie with window alarms but once again this was unsuccessful and he continued to suffer damage to the salon.

The Crime Reduction Officer for Darlington has also visited the premises to try and offer further assistance but as Mr Beattie has tried all of the options that were available to him to no avail, it is felt that the only option left available to him to protect the premises was to install shutters.

I have seen the shutters which Mr Beattie has installed and I feel that they are in keeping with the building and that they are much more appealing than the broken windows which we have seen in recent weeks. They have offered invaluable reassurance to Mr Beattie and his employees whilst the police enquiries are still ongoing, and he has suffered no further damage since their installation.

I feel that Mr Beattie is being directly targeted and without the intervention of shutters he will continue to suffer more damage which will lead to more unrest, more unsightly broken windows and will ultimately cause Mr Beattie to close his business.

Throughout this difficult time Mr Beattie has heeded any advice given to him and has been proactive in every sense. I would encourage you, with all due respect, to allow Mr Beattie to keep his shutters in place and help him to avoid being the victim of further damage.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Yours Faithfully

PCSO 6785 Lynsey Carter

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED