

## DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

### Design Component

#### Amount

The application applies to the replacement of the shopfront at 45, Howardsgate, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6AP. It is a single shopfront.

#### Layout

The shop is situated in a parade of shops with a mixture of both commercial and residential accommodation above. The building appears to have been constructed in the 1950's – and at ground floor level the parade has a modern appearance.

We have positioned the front door centrally for 2 reasons: so that customers enter the shop directly in front of a centrally fitted reception desk; and the second is to continue the symmetry from above at 1<sup>st</sup> floor level.

#### Scale

The width of the shopfront is a given distance between the 2 side pilasters. We have retained the existing depth of fascia, but have subdivided the height of this into 2 areas – the fascia, and a retractable blind canopy. This is because the shop is South facing and will be uncomfortably warm in the height of summer.

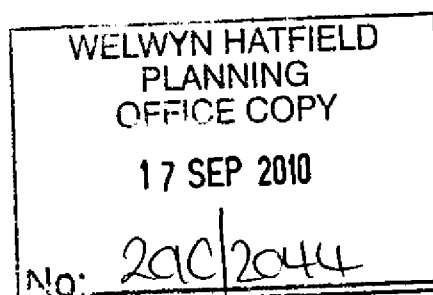
#### Landscaping

Not applicable.

#### Appearance

We are looking to increase the quality of the shopfront by far in excess of the existing and adjacent shopfronts. The shopfront frame is a high quality, 100mm x 45mm aluminium section, powder-coated dark grey, with central single-leaf frameless glass door. Polished Stainless Steel (PSS) handles and letter plate are to be used. There is a diffused glass panel located above the door with PSS numerals to show the shop number.

The communal brick pilasters situated to the left and right hand side of the shopfront would be cleaned up so as not to detract from the new shopfront.



## Access Component

The door width provides a 900mm clear opening, allowing plenty of room for both wheelchair access and push-chairs (including double buggies).

The internal floor level is to remain as existing and the paving slab directly outside the door will be very slightly lifted to maintain level access into the shop. The surrounding pavement will be contoured to suit, so as not to provide any trip hazards.

The pressure required to open the shopfront door is less than 30 Newtons in accordance with the DDA.