

### INTRODUCTION

This brief Planning Statement outlines proposals to seek retrospective approval to provide an open trellis metal framed enclosure with a fabric roof over the existing external shop frontage / display area at 25 Canterbury Road Sittingbourne and must be read in conjunction with the application drawings. The applicant had been advised by the frame erector that planning permission was not required. The external area is 17.8m<sup>2</sup> which is in addition to the 68m<sup>2</sup> of the internal retail shop area.

Mr Hasib has successfully operated the shop for over 12 years, in challenging times currently employing 3 –4 members of staff. The space in front of the shop, up to the back edge of the footpath has always been used to display fresh produce and other items to attract people into the shop. This has always provided an effective sales area, an essential part of the business. However the existing canopy only protected a small area, so a new canopy was installed that allowed the canopy to be extended to the footpath to provide an improved area for the display of produce.

It has become necessary to enclose the shop front with an open trellis frame as the shop frequently suffer significant issues which impacts the business, where :

- Bread is stolen or vandalised when a delivery is made in the early hours of the morning.
- Homeless people sleep in front (or in the large bins).
- Carboard recycling blows into the main road, causing danger to the public and passing cars.
- People use the front area to urinate.

The enclosed framing eliminates all these issues allowing the business to continue to thrive. The open nature of the framing reduced an perceive visual impact whilst still providing provides views through the shop behind.

The structure is essential for the shop to operate successfully, although the applicants would be open to changing the colour of the framing if it felt appropriate to do so.

EXISTING PHOTOGRAPHS



