

# Taunton Deane Borough Council

Planning Committee - 21 March 2012

E/0243/38/11

## UNAUTHORISED ILLUMINATED FASCIA SIGN AT PHONE JUNCTION, 9 BRIDGE STREET, TAUNTON

**OCCUPIER:** THE MANAGER

**OWNER:** THE MANAGER  
PHONE JUNCTION, 9 BRIDGE STREET, TAUNTON, TA1  
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider whether it is expedient to take Enforcement action to secure the removal of the unauthorised illumination of fascia sign at Phone Junction, 9 Bridge Street, Taunton.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Solicitor to the Council be authorised to commence Prosecution proceedings in order to secure the removal of the unauthorised illumination to the sign.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is off the main road that leads through Taunton Town centre. Bridge Street lies to the North West of the River Tone. The building is currently used for retail on the ground floor.

### BACKGROUND

The unauthorised illumination to the fascia sign was first brought to the Council's attention in August 2011. A site visit was carried out in September and a letter was sent requesting an application. A further letter was hand delivered in January 2012 requesting that an application be submitted, to date an application has not been received.

### DESCRIPTION OF BREACH OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

The illumination to the fascia sign is a breach of The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 Schedule 3 Part 1, Class 4B.

### RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

none

### RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES

National Policies

Taunton Deane Local Plan 2004

EC26 – Outdoor Advertisements and Signs

**DETERMINING ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

The pertinent issues that require consideration in determining an advertisement proposal are the impact upon the amenity of the area surrounding the application site, together with any potential impact upon public health and safety and impact on the character and appearance of the area.

The sign currently displayed on the front of the premises is an externally illuminated fascia, lit by means of two strip lights fixed above the sign. The light source is visible and the means of illumination of this sign is considered unacceptable and detracts from the appearance and amenity of the property and area contrary to policy EC26(A) of the Local Plan.

An alternative would be to design an unobtrusive trough light into the fascia so a suitable form of illumination to the fascia could be provided. This has been advised verbally to an agent however no application has subsequently been submitted.

Therefore a decision must be made as to whether it is expedient to take action and as the current illumination detracts from the character and appearance of the property, it is not considered to be acceptable.

**In preparing this report the Enforcement Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998**

**ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Mrs A Dunford  
PLANNING OFFICER: Mr G Clifford**