

50 High Street, Littlehampton, BN17 5EA

Proposed new access door to and from High Street

#### RETAIL IMPACT STATEMENT

The purpose of the proposed doorway and internal access corridor is to provide a safe escape route from the first floor offices, which are currently not fully separated from the ground floor sales area.

While the existing arrangement means that any fire arising in the ground floor would immediately threaten occupants of the first floor offices, until about ten years ago it was possible to escape through a rear storage building and reach ground level using an external staircase at the rear of the storage building, but this route became blocked and it would have been necessary for external help to bring a ladder to the rear of the building so that occupiers could escape to the ground.

The proposal does not include an internal communicating doorway from the sales floor to the proposed corridor as the prospective tenants (the shop is currently unoccupied since Bunces ceased to trade in Littlehampton) feel it would better from a security point of view if the administrative offices were kept separate. If a future tenant does require a communicating door it would not compromise safety if a door were installed.

The purpose of the proposal is to comply with safety legislation and to make the premises suitable for continuing use in a shopping centre.