

# Good Practice Guide - Living Over The Shop

Bridgnorth District Council

## Brief

BE Group was appointed to write a good practice guide, to encourage local retail property owners to convert their vacant and underused upper floorspace into residential dwellings.

The second stage of the study involved an assessment of the upper floorspace in the town which led to the identification of four properties that could be taken forward by the Council to convert as good practice examples.

The project was highlighted as a way of creating affordable housing to help the vitality of the town.



## Activities

The study involved an assessment of the retail premises within the town core to establish the existing upper floor uses. This was followed by consultations with property owners who voiced interest in the 'LOTS' idea during property assessments. Having identified suitable properties concept layouts and costings were created.

The good practice guide aimed to give owners a step-by-step illustration as to why and how to convert their upper floorspace. It involved research into examples of good practice across the country, funding streams, policies and regulation as well as local historic considerations.



## Outcome

The outcomes of the study were:

- Desktop published Good Practice Guide
- Mapped assessment of the upper floor uses of retail premises in Bridgnorth
- Identification of four properties suitable for conversion
- One recommended property with detailed layouts and costs to enable the Council to develop into a good practice example.

