

Heritage & Design Impact Statement

Pickle & Peach, 87 Ocean Road, South Shields, NE33 2JJ

Proposal

Installation of an aluminium louvred roof awning (projection 2.72 m, width approx. 6.30 m, overall height 2.40 m) forming a weather-protected external seating area to the side yard of the café, with half-height solid walls to front and side, sliding glass panels above, and a fixed rear glass panel with glazed door. Integrated rainwater drainage to existing downpipe. Finish: black powder-coated aluminium with clear toughened safety glass.

Site and context

The premises operate as a café (Use Class E(b)) at ground floor with a hard-surfaced side yard accessed from Ocean Road. The awning sits within the side yard, set back from the main building line. The host property is not listed. Should the site fall within a designated Conservation Area, the proposal has been designed to preserve and, by tidying a utilitarian yard, enhance its character.

Design rationale and appearance

The structure is lightweight and recessive in appearance: slim black aluminium posts and tracks, clear toughened safety glass panels over low solid plinth walls (~1.1 m), and a louvred roof that opens to provide natural light and ventilation. Materials are robust, maintainable and sympathetic to contemporary shopfronts. The glazing is largely transparent, minimising bulk and visual intrusion.

Reversibility

The awning is a bolt-on system with minimal intervention to the host fabric and can be removed in future without lasting harm. This reversibility is a key heritage benefit compared with a traditional extension.

Amenity and operation

The enclosure provides weather protection for a modest number of covers. There is no external plant; the louvre drive is a small intermittent electric motor. No amplified music is proposed in the enclosure. The arrangement does not affect neighbouring privacy or outlook.

Highways, access and servicing

The proposal does not encroach onto the public highway or alter pedestrian access. Refuse storage remains within the site boundary. There is no impact on parking or deliveries.

Drainage and sustainability

Integrated gutters direct roof water to the existing rainwater downpipe. Opening louvres reduce reliance on mechanical ventilation and maintain a comfortable microclimate.

Conclusion

By virtue of its modest scale, high-quality contemporary materials, transparency and reversible construction, the proposal preserves the character and appearance of the area and results in no unacceptable amenity, heritage or highways impacts. Planning permission is therefore respectfully requested.

Prepared by: Dayne Thompson (Applicant) – 10 October 2025