

Dickens' Country Protection Society

Founder Member:
Dr. Colin Smith, MA., BM BCDh., MSc., DCH., FRCGP.



Chairman :
Mr R Theobald
'Greenfield'
21 Warren View
Shorne, Gravesend
Kent. DA12 3EJ
Tel: 01474 823674

Hon. Secretary :
Mrs P A Lippiatt
135 Heath Lane
Dartford
Kent
DA1 2TW
Tel: 07968 279761

Gravesham Borough Council
Planning Department
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend
DA12 1AU

3rd December 2025

Dear Ms Cue

Re Blackthorn Farm Wrotham Road Meopham Gravesend Kent.
Outline planning application for up to 100No. residential dwellings
(including affordable housing), with all matter reserved except for
access and creation of a new access from A227/South Street.
Planning application GR/2025/0802

Thank you for your letter of 26th November 2025 concerning the above. The Society wishes to register an objection to the application on the following grounds:

- (a) The site is in an area where Green Belt polices apply, where new residential development would not normally be permitted. No special circumstances have been put forward which would warrant overriding Green Belt policy. The development proposed would have significant impact on the openness of the Green Belt.
- (b) The site whilst not designated for its landscape value is, in a local context, an attractive area of countryside and should be protected.
- (c) There is evidence to suggest that development on this scale in this location may be difficult to service. I should not proceed if it would result in compromising the services of existing residents in the area. At least one statutory undertaker has indicated that there is insufficient capacity to service additional development. This may indicate that the development is premature.

The Society would comment that services to existing residents should not be adversely affected by development and developers should fully fund any investment made necessary as a result of the development. The Society notes that it is reported that foul drainage system in Cliffe Woods has been overloaded as a result of excessive development and it has become necessary to use road tankers to supplement the sewer.