

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 09/03/2025 4:30 PM from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address:	Land South Of Pear Tree Lane Pear Tree Lane Shorne Gravesend Kent
Proposal:	Change of use of the land for the stationing of 2 static homes, 2 touring caravans and shared day room for Gypsy/Traveller occupation. Associated hard and soft landscaping.
Case Officer:	Ms Amanda Cue

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED] Woodlands Lane, Shorne Gravesend

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments:	I am writing to formally object to the above planning application. Whilst I recognise the need to accommodate the traveller community, I believe this proposal is inappropriate for the following reasons: 1. Impact on the Green Belt The fundamental purpose of Green Belt designation is to prevent urban sprawl, safeguard the countryside, and maintain the character of rural areas. National and local planning policies strongly protect Green Belt land from inappropriate development except in exceptional circumstances. This proposal does not meet the criteria for such exceptions and would set a dangerous precedent for further encroachment on protected land. All previous applications on this land have been rightly rejected and any change in this stance to grant permission would leave the decision open to challenge. 2. Harm to the Local Environment and Biodiversity The proposed site is home to a range of wildlife and natural habitats, which could be irreversibly damaged by development. Increased human activity, hardstanding, and associated infrastructure would disrupt local ecosystems and contribute to the loss of biodiversity. Furthermore, there is a real risk of pollution to the surrounding area which commonly occurs around sites with similar proposed uses. 3. Strain on Local Infrastructure and Services The area lacks the necessary infrastructure to support additional residential development. Local roads are narrow and unsuitable for an increase in vehicle traffic, particularly larger caravans and associated vehicles. Additionally the proposed closure of local healthcare facilities in higham with the potential risk of closure of the Shorne GP surgery will put public services under increased strain,
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and this development would place further pressure on these resources and set a precedent for further applications.

4. Highways and Traffic Concerns

The proposed access points to the site may pose a significant safety risk given the blockages the applicant has already caused. Increased traffic, particularly larger vehicles and trailers, could lead to congestion and an increased risk of accidents. The rural roads in this area are not designed to accommodate large vehicles. It is frankly laughable that the highways authority has no concerns given the chaos caused when the applicant blocked the road outside the property because the access wasn't appropriate to manoeuvre a caravan. It was so bad that the local papers wrote an article on the hours of traffic issues caused. Given the fact that it is proposed that large caravans will come and go from this site this will be a regular occurrence on a narrow country road that is already under strain.

5. Impact on Local Community and Character of the Area

The development of a traveller site in this location would significantly alter the character of the area, which is predominantly rural and agricultural and does not have any such sites. There are large communities of travellers established in neighbouring villages where such application may be more appropriate.

6. Failure to Demonstrate Very Special Circumstances

Planning policy requires that "very special circumstances" must be demonstrated to justify development in the Green Belt. The application does not provide sufficient justification for why this location is necessary, nor does it offer evidence that alternative, more suitable sites outside of the Green Belt have been considered.

In light of the above concerns, I would urge the council to refuse this application to protect the Green Belt, local community, and environment. Given that the applicant has already begun occupation and installed a static home in breach of planning, the council must have serious concerns that any conditions placed on a permission would not be adhered to. It is highly likely that there will be further and frequent breaches of planning and the local authority must act swiftly to enforce the current breaches.

I trust that the council will uphold its commitment to responsible planning and ensure that inappropriate development does not proceed. Otherwise, given local feeling, I would expect a challenge to any approval of this application.

Kind regards