

To: Gravesham Borough Council – Planning Department

Re: Planning Application 20260207

From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cheyne Walk

Meopham, Kent DA13 0PF

Resident of Meopham for 45 years

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to formally object to Planning Application 20260207 and to express my strong concerns regarding the cumulative impact of further large-scale development in Meopham and its surrounding area.

Having lived in Meopham for 45 years, I have witnessed significant change. However, the scale of this proposed development—725 additional homes—is wholly disproportionate to the capacity of the village's existing infrastructure and will have severe and lasting consequences. This proposed Development 202602070 comes in the wake of 5 other Housing Developments that are in the pipe line in Meopham totalling over 1100 new homes.

Traffic and Highways Impact

The A227 already experiences consistently high traffic volumes throughout the day. The addition of 725 homes would likely result in an estimated 2,400–2,600 additional vehicles in the area. This increase is simply unsustainable.

In addition, the road is already heavily affected by:

- Delivery vehicles servicing existing properties
- When the Heavy Goods Vehicles Park at the foot of Wrotham Hill is fully complete the A227 will be a prime option for lorries making diversions to avoid disruption on the M20 and M26.

There are no viable alternative routes. Local lanes are predominantly single-track and unsuitable for significant increases in traffic, meaning congestion and delays on the A227 will inevitably worsen.

Existing Congestion and Safety Concerns

There are already critical congestion points in the village, particularly:

- **The A227 junction serving Meopham School**, which also provides access to:
 - Meopham Medical Centre
 - Busy Bees Childcare
 - The Sports Centre
 - The Library

This junction is already severely congested during school drop-off and pick-up times, creating unsafe and chaotic conditions.

- **Longfield Road junction**, where multiple schools (Primary, Pre-School, and Helen Allison School) are located.
 Limited parking and recent road alterations, including the central island near the Camer Shops, have created a significant bottleneck and safety hazard.

Any further increase in traffic will exacerbate these existing problems to an unacceptable degree.

Pressure on Local Infrastructure

The village infrastructure is already under considerable strain:

1. **Healthcare** – Meopham Medical Centre is operating at full capacity and cannot absorb any increase in patients.
2. **Drainage and Sewage** – There have been ongoing issues with water management, including flooding and sewage overflow.
3. **Electricity Supply** – The area experiences regular power outages, indicating limited capacity in the current system.

These issues demonstrate that essential services are already overstretched and unable to support further development of this scale.

Future Cumulative Impact

The proposed **Lower Thames Crossing** will place additional pressure on the local road network and environment. Approving further large-scale housing without addressing this cumulative impact would be irresponsible and short-sighted.

Community Opposition

It is also important to note the overwhelming level of local opposition. At a recent public meeting, it was made clear that hundreds of objections have been submitted, only one gave an expression of support.

This reflects the strength of feeling within the community and should be given significant weight in the decision-making process.

Conclusion

In summary, this proposal fails to adequately address:

- Severe traffic and highway constraints
- Existing and worsening congestion and safety risks
- Insufficient healthcare and utility infrastructure
- The cumulative impact of other major developments

For these reasons, I strongly urge Gravesham Borough Council to reject Planning Application 20260207.

The residents of Meopham have made their views clear. This development is neither appropriate nor sustainable.

Yours faithfully,

