

To Gravesham Borough Council – Planning Department Re: Planning Application 20260207

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to formally object to Planning Application 20260207.

As a resident of Meopham for 45 years, I am deeply concerned about the cumulative impact of continued large-scale development within the village. This is no longer a matter of “Not In My Back Yard”; rather Not In Meophams Back Yard as Meopham soon will not have a back yard at all. The question is whether Meopham will retain any of its character, infrastructure capacity, or community cohesion if the volume of pending applications get approval.

The scale and pace of proposed developments are, in my view, unsustainable. There appears to be insufficient consideration of the long-term consequences for local infrastructure, particularly the road network. The A227 is already operating way beyond a reasonable capacity, with frequent congestion, temporary traffic controls, and well-known accident hotspots such as the junction of The Street and Wrotham Road and the new central island in front of Camer Parade, that has not resolved any issues there.

Based on typical car ownership rates in England, an additional 2,000 dwellings across all pending developments could generate approximately 2,400–2,600 extra vehicles*, excluding delivery and service traffic. This increase would place an intolerable strain on an already overburdened road system.

Traffic issues are further exacerbated during school drop-off and pick-up times. For example, Meadfield Road (serving Cheyne Walk) frequently becomes heavily congested, with large numbers of vehicles waiting for extended periods. The existing layby is inadequate, resulting in vehicles obstructing access. This raises serious safety concerns, particularly regarding access for emergency services. Similar issues occur near the Infant School on Longfield Road, where parking and congestion create hazardous conditions for residents and children alike.

Importantly, there are no viable alternative routes to relieve pressure on the A227. The surrounding rural lanes are narrow, unsuitable for significant traffic volumes, and already prone to gridlock when used as diversions.

I was encouraged to read recent comments from James Ferrin, who stated that councillors should be able to advocate for their communities without fear of reprisal. In that spirit, I urge decision-makers to give proper weight to the concerns of local residents, who feel increasingly overlooked in the planning process.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that this application be refused. The current and projected impacts on infrastructure, safety, and the character of Meopham are too significant to ignore.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Address] Cheyne Walk, Meopham, DA13 0PF

[Redacted Stamp/Text]