

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 17/03/2026 7:40 AM from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address:	The Woodlands 217 Wrotham Road Gravesend Kent
Proposal:	Alterations to existing restaurant, including alterations to elevations, additional works to accommodate plant, new corral and bin store, demolition of existing single storey side extension with erection of new single storey side extension, minor external work to existing parking bays, creation of patio and other associated work.
Case Officer:	Mrs Lisa Fisher

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED] phoenix court Gravesend

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	Horrible use of this property and definitely negative new venue moving in there.... McDonalds is horrible for the community. McDonald's replacing a local pub in a poor area can harm the community by prioritizing cheap, unhealthy food over social hubs that foster cohesion. This shift often exacerbates health issues and erodes local economic resilience in deprived UK neighborhoods.[1][2][3] ## Health Impacts Fast food outlets like McDonald's cluster in low-income areas, with studies showing up to five times more in England's poorest spots compared to affluent ones. This promotes obesity and poor diets, especially among children near schools, as easy access encourages unhealthy choices over fresh options. Councils often reject such sites due to high local obesity rates, but McDonald's appeals successfully by claiming salads or sports sponsorships aid health.[4][5][6][7][8][9] ## Social and Cultural Loss Local pubs act as vital community centers, boosting cohesion, well-being, and social interaction in rural or deprived areas-benefits fast food chains rarely match. Replacing a pub with McDonald's diminishes these hubs, where people connect meaningfully, turning spaces into transactional drive-thrus.

Communities like Tavistock and Sheffield have campaigned against such changes to preserve heritage and independents.[3][10][11][12]

Economic Effects

While McDonald's creates low-wage jobs (e.g., supporting 209,000 UK roles in 2023), it often crowds out independents like pubs that reinvest more locally. Chains weaken community control over food systems and prioritize profits over long-term resilience, hitting poor areas hardest amid rising costs. Pubs, by contrast, generate broader social value through diversified roles like event hosting.[12][13][14][4]

Sources

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- [2] Levelling up on Local Food Environments - The Food Foundation <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/news/levelling-local-food-environments>
- [3] The Social Value Pubs Bring To Their Local Areas Revealed <https://bii.org/the-social-value-pubs-bring-to-their-local-areas-revealed/>
- [4] Fast Food Takes Over Fresh Options in Low-income Areas <https://givingcompass.org/article/fast-food-takes-over-fresh-options-in-low-income-areas>
- [5] New report highlights the rise of fast food outlets on high ... <https://www.mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk/blog/2024/12/04/rise-fast-food-outlets-high-streets/>
- [6] McDonald's triumphs over councils' rejections of new branches-by ... <https://www.bmj.com/content/388/bmj.r163.full.pdf>
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- [8] Deprived areas 'have five times more fast food outlets' - BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-44642027>
- [9] England's poorest areas are fast food hotspots - GOV.UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/englands-poorest-areas-are-fast-food-hotspots>
- [10] UK's 'angriest' town with 'fiery' residents who kicked out McDonald's <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2180508/uk-angriest-town-devon-tavistock-mcdonalds-premier-inn>
- [11] As one Sheffield community continues its fight against McDonald's ... https://www.reddit.com/r/sheffield/comments/1pge5xu/as_one_sheffield_community_continues_its_fight/
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- [22] [PDF] McDonald's at 50 - Our social and economic impact <https://www.mcdonalds.com/content/dam/sites/uk/nfl/pdf/uploads/mcdonalds-at-50-social-and-economic-impact-report.pdf>
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[29] Residents object to Warwick McDonald's 24-hour opening
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Kind regards