

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 21/02/2026 6:03 PM from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address:	Land North Of Cherry Trees Ridge Lane Meopham Gravesend Kent
Proposal:	Retrospective change of use for the siting of 4 pitches for Gypsy / Traveller occupation to include one static, one touring caravan and one amenity building on each pitch. Associated changes in land levels and hard / soft landscaping.
Case Officer:	Mrs Lisa Fisher

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED] the hill Gravesend

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: I write in support of this application for the retrospective change of use of the land for the siting of four traveller pitches at Land North of Cherry Trees, Ridge Lane, Meopham.

The proposal must be considered in the context of the significant and ongoing unmet need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation within the Gravesham Borough area. National policy contained within the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) places a clear duty on local planning authorities to identify and maintain a five-year supply of deliverable traveller sites. Where such a supply cannot be robustly demonstrated, decision-makers are directed to determine applications for sustainable small private sites positively in order to address the shortfall.

Evidence across Kent and within the borough demonstrates that authorised pitch provision has historically lagged behind identified need. In these circumstances, proposals for modest family sites make an important and direct contribution towards meeting this requirement and reducing unauthorised encampments and planning conflicts elsewhere.

The proposal represents a small-scale, low-density development in a rural location consistent with the established pattern of traveller site provision nationally. Planning Inspectors have consistently recognised that small family-run sites are often the most sustainable and socially effective means of delivering

traveller accommodation, particularly where they provide stability, access to education, healthcare and local services, and reduce the need for repeated relocation.

The Gravesham Local Plan, when read as a whole, supports the principle of meeting objectively assessed accommodation needs for all community groups, including Gypsy and Traveller families. Development plan policies requiring the authority to plan positively for housing needs and inclusive communities must be applied alongside national traveller policy. Where development plan allocations have not delivered sufficient sites to meet identified demand, the PPTS requires that applications such as this be assessed favourably unless clear and demonstrable harm would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.

The retrospective nature of the application is not a material planning harm. Government guidance is explicit that retrospective submissions must be assessed solely on their planning merits. The key question is whether the site is acceptable in planning terms, not the timing of the application.

Granting permission would:

- contribute directly to addressing a recognised local shortage of authorised traveller pitches
- support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of lawful traveller accommodation
- reduce pressure on public resources associated with unauthorised development
- provide stable, secure accommodation for families in accordance with national equality and inclusion objectives

In overall planning balance, the provision of a modest number of lawful pitches in an established rural setting carries substantial weight. In the absence of clear overriding planning harm, national policy and the development plan together indicate that permission should be granted.

For these reasons, the application should be approved.

Kind regards