

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 6:20 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] peacock street 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 siting of four traveller pitches at Land North of Cherry Trees, Ridge Lane, Meopham.

I recognise that the site lies within the Green Belt and that traveller sites are normally regarded as inappropriate development. However, national planning policy is clear that inappropriate development may be approved where Very Special Circumstances exist and where the harm to the Green Belt, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other material considerations. Each case must therefore be assessed on its individual planning balance.

In this case, the cumulative weight of several factors together amounts to Very Special Circumstances.

First, there is a clear and continuing unmet need for authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches within the borough and the wider area. Government policy requires local authorities to identify and maintain a supply of deliverable traveller sites. Where this has not been fully achieved, significant weight should be given to the provision of sustainable small private sites that help address this shortage.

Second, the proposal is modest in scale, involving only four pitches. Planning Inspectors have consistently recognised that small family-run traveller sites represent one of the least harmful and most sustainable ways of meeting traveller accommodation needs. The limited scale of the development means the

spatial and visual impact on the openness of the Green Belt is correspondingly limited.

Third, the development provides stable and lawful accommodation for families, supporting consistent access to education, healthcare and local services. National policy recognises the importance of facilitating the traditional and nomadic way of life of Gypsy and Traveller communities while also promoting social inclusion and stability.

Fourth, the Gravesham Local Plan seeks to ensure that the accommodation needs of all sections of the community are met and promotes sustainable and inclusive development. Granting permission for a modest traveller site which contributes directly toward meeting identified accommodation needs aligns with these strategic objectives.

When these factors are considered cumulatively - the recognised unmet need for traveller pitches, the small scale of the proposal, the social benefits of secure lawful accommodation, and the Local Plan's objective to meet housing needs - they clearly outweigh the limited harm associated with the development in Green Belt terms.

In my view, these considerations together form the Very Special Circumstances required by national planning policy to justify granting permission.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Council approves this application.

Kind regards