

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 6:23 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:

Application Reference: 20240760
Site Address: Land At Ridge Lane, Meopham, Gravesend, Kent
Proposal: Change of use of land to a Gypsy and Traveller site consisting of 4 no. pitches.

To the Case Officer,

I am writing to express my strong support for this application. My support is based on significant material planning considerations, specifically the Council's failure to meet its statutory duties and the profound hardship caused to the applicant family by the lack of a settled base.

1. Failure of the Five-Year Pitch Supply

Under the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), local authorities are required to maintain a five-year supply of deliverable land for pitches. Gravesham Borough Council's own Five-Year Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Supply Statement confirms a significant shortfall. National policy dictates that where a council cannot demonstrate a five-year supply, this must be a significant material consideration in favour of granting even temporary or permanent permission. The council's failure to provide alternative sites makes this private provision not just appropriate, but necessary.

2. The Hardship of "No Settled Base"

The nomadic habit of life is a protected cultural identity, yet without a settled base, the Traveller community is forced into a cycle of insecurity. It is exceptionally difficult-and often impossible-to access consistent healthcare, register with a GP, or ensure children receive a stable education when facing

constant threat of eviction from roadside encampments. This application provides a vital solution to this hardship, allowing a family to live with dignity and security.

3. Best Interests of the Child

Under the Children Act 2004 and the Human Rights Act (Article 8), the council has a duty to consider the best interests of any children involved as a primary consideration. A settled base at Ridge Lane is essential for their physical and emotional well-being. Denying this application would effectively force children back into an unsettled lifestyle, which is detrimental to their development and access to local schools.

4. Proportionality and "Very Special Circumstances"

While the site is located in the Green Belt, the "Very Special Circumstances" (VSC) test is met here. The combination of:

The acute, unmet local need for pitches;

The lack of any available alternative sites in the borough;

The personal circumstances and human rights of the applicants;

...clearly outweighs the limited harm to the Green Belt. This is a small-scale, 4-pitch development that is far less intrusive than large-scale residential housing and provides a much-needed social benefit.

5. Sustainability and Integration

Providing a settled site is more sustainable than the alternative of "unauthorised encampments," which create higher costs for the taxpayer and more vehicle movements. This site allows for the orderly management of land and enables the family to integrate into the Meopham community as settled residents.

Conclusion

The Council cannot continue to penalise the Traveller community for a lack of provision that is the Council's own responsibility to solve. I urge the Planning Committee to follow national policy and the principles of fairness by approving this application.

Kind regards