

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 20/02/2026 10:10 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] Istead rise

Comments Details

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

Reasons for comment:

Comments:

1. Introduction

I am writing as a member of the local community to strongly support this application for a Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch.

The site has been continuously occupied since November 2025, providing clear evidence that the development operates without unacceptable impacts on highway safety, neighbouring amenity, or landscape. This established occupation allows the Council to assess actual impacts, rather than hypothetical concerns.

2. National Planning Policy

- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS, 2015)^[1]
- Requires local authorities to positively plan for Traveller accommodation.
- Encourages provision of authorised sites to meet unmet local need.
- Supports reducing unauthorised encampments and promoting well-managed sites.
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021)^[2]
- Establishes the presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- Confirms that decisions must be based on material planning considerations, not prejudice.
- Green Belt policies allow very special circumstances to outweigh harm.

3. Local Need & Council Shortfall

- There is a demonstrable local unmet need for authorised Traveller pitches in Gravesham.
- The Council has failed to provide sufficient authorised sites, making proposals like this crucial for meeting housing obligations.
- Regularising the existing site ensures compliance with planning regulations and reduces pressure from unauthorised encampments.

4. Green Belt - Very Special Circumstances

Although the site lies within the Green Belt, very special circumstances exist, including:

- Established lawful occupation since November 2025;
- Clear local unmet need for Traveller pitches;
- Council's shortfall in providing authorised pitches;
- Benefits of regularising the site, including enforceable site management, layout, landscaping, and access;
- No demonstrable harm to neighbouring amenity, highway safety, or the Green Belt.

5. Public Benefits

- Reduces unauthorised encampments.
- Improves access to education, healthcare, and welfare services.
- Allows long-term, enforceable site management.

6. Equality Considerations

- Equality Act 2010^[66]: Gypsy and Traveller communities are recognised ethnic groups.
- The Council must eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations.
- Planning decisions must not be influenced by prejudice, stereotypes, or opposition to the identity of occupants.

7. Human Rights - Article 8 ECHR

- Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights^[67] protects the right to private and family life.
- Refusal, given lawful occupation since November 2025 and no demonstrable planning harm, would interfere with occupants' ability to maintain settled family life.
- Planning inspectors and courts consistently recognise the impact on family life as a material consideration, particularly in Traveller site cases.
- These rights reinforce the very special circumstances in favour of granting permission.

8. Conclusion

The combination of:

- Established occupation

- Local unmet need and council shortfall
- Absence of demonstrable planning harm
- Public benefits
- Equality Act 2010 duties
- Article 8 ECHR protections

demonstrates that very special circumstances exist.

I respectfully request that Gravesham Borough Council grants planning permission for this application.

Kind regards