

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 25/03/2026 4:35 PM from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address:	Land North Of Camer Road Meopham Gravesend Kent
Proposal:	Outline planning application for up to 725 dwellings (Use Class C3), a new two-form entry primary school (Use Class F1), a Local Centre (up to 500sqm of Class E floorspace), the provision of Public Open Space including sport and recreation facilities alongside associated access, landscaping, parking, and infrastructure; with all matters reserved except for access.
Case Officer:	Mrs Katherine Parkin

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED] The Russets Meopham

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: I wish to formally object to the above planning application for up to 725 dwellings at Land North of Camer Road, Meopham.

I write this objection as an [REDACTED]

My objection is based on the clear and evidenced impact this development would have on already overstretched local hospital services, particularly those provided by Darent Valley Hospital and across the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The proposed development of up to 725 dwellings is likely to result in a population increase of well over 1,500 residents. This scale of growth will inevitably generate significant additional demand for hospital services, including Accident & Emergency (A&E), inpatient care, diagnostics, and outpatient treatment.

There is clear evidence that local hospital services are already under severe and sustained pressure:

- Darent Valley Hospital's Emergency Department is consistently described as extremely busy, with patients frequently experiencing long waits and delays in

treatment.

- Across the Kent and Medway system, only around 70-75% of A&E patients are seen within 4 hours, significantly below the NHS standard of 95%, demonstrating a persistent shortfall in capacity.
- A substantial number of patients in Kent and Medway experience 12-hour waits in A&E following a decision to admit, reflecting serious bed shortages and flow issues.
- Waiting lists across Kent and Medway remain high, with tens of thousands of patients waiting over 18 weeks for treatment, and many waiting considerably longer.
- Delayed discharges are a continuing issue across local hospitals, meaning beds are not available for incoming patients, further compounding pressure on emergency services.

In addition to operational pressures, the Kent and Medway ICB is under significant financial strain:

- The ICB is required to operate within strict financial constraints and has faced substantial deficits and cost pressures, limiting its ability to expand hospital capacity.
- This financial position significantly reduces the likelihood that the healthcare system can respond to large-scale unplanned population growth with the necessary investment in infrastructure, staffing, and facilities.

Taken together, this demonstrates a healthcare system that is already operating beyond comfortable capacity, both operationally and financially.

Policy Context

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is clear that development must be supported by adequate infrastructure:

- Paragraph 11 requires that development is sustainable, balancing social infrastructure needs.
- Paragraph 20(d) states that strategic policies should make sufficient provision for healthcare infrastructure.
- Paragraph 34 requires that plans and decisions ensure that infrastructure is deliverable.

In addition, local planning policy within Gravesham requires that development is supported by appropriate infrastructure and does not place unacceptable strain on existing services.

In this case, the application fails to demonstrate how the additional demand on hospital services will be mitigated. There is no secured funding, no clear delivery mechanism, and no evidence of agreement with healthcare providers to expand capacity.

Conclusion

Approving this application without corresponding investment in hospital infrastructure would likely result in:

- increased A&E waiting times at Darent Valley Hospital
- worsening ambulance delays and handover times
- reduced access to urgent and elective care
- further deterioration in patient outcomes
- additional strain on a healthcare system already under significant financial pressure

This is not consistent with sustainable development and fails to meet the

requirements of national and local planning policy.

For these reasons, I strongly object to this application.

Kind regards