

Dickens' Country Protection Society

Founder Member:

Dr. Colin Smith, MA., BM BCh., MSc., DCH., FRCGP.



Chairman :

Mr P. Thackald

Hon. Secretary :

Mrs P A Lippiatt

Gravesham Council
Planning Department
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend
DA12 2TR

29th March 2025

Dear Mrs Parkin

Re Furzy Lea, Bowesden Lane, Shorne, Gravesend Kent DA12 3LA
Retention of engineering and landscaping works with modifications
and retention of gymnasium and summer house buildings with modifications.
Planning Application **GR/2025/0225**

The above application has come to the Society's notice and the Society would like to make the following comments. Furzy Lea is situated in an area where Green Belt policies apply, directly abutting the North Downs National Landscape Area.

In the Society's view, the engineering works that have taken place go far beyond what could reasonably be expected in the domestic garden of a property in the rural area. The Society has already written to the authority regarding the information provided by the applicant in support of planning applications GR/2024/0558 and GR/2024/0558. The Society notes that both these applications were refused by the authority but, despite this, work continued. This was done at the applicant's risk. The works are substantially complete and the full impact of what was been constructed is now apparent.

The Society wishes to register a strong objection to application 2025/0225. In the Society's view, action should be taken to secure the dismantling and removal of the engineering works and the structure erected on them and the restoration of the land to its former condition. In the Society's view, the retaining wall and the structure on it has a significant impact on the openness of the Green Belt.

Regarding the various buildings, the proposed use of these needs to be clarified with the provision of detailed floor plans indicating the services provided in order that the authority may maintain adequate control.