

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 03/03/2026 5:42 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:	Park road Gravesend

Comments Details

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

Reasons for comment:

Comments: I wish to register my strong support for this application.

This proposal must be assessed in accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS).

There is a well-established and ongoing shortage of authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches both nationally and locally. Under Policy H of the PPTS, the Council is required to identify and maintain a five-year supply of deliverable Traveller sites. If such a supply cannot be clearly demonstrated, that shortfall is a significant material consideration weighing heavily in favour of granting permission.

The provision of four pitches is modest in scale and makes a meaningful contribution towards meeting identified accommodation need. This is not large-scale or speculative development; it is limited, proportionate, and capable of being appropriately controlled by condition.

If the site lies within the Green Belt, very special circumstances exist. These include the acute unmet need for Traveller accommodation, the absence of suitable alternative available pitches, and the personal and welfare circumstances of the occupiers. The scale of development is small, and any

limited harm to openness can be mitigated. When properly weighed, the cumulative benefits clearly outweigh any policy harm.

Members must also consider Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (right to respect for private and family life and home). Refusal in circumstances where there is no suitable alternative accommodation available would represent a serious interference with that right and risks being disproportionate.

In addition, the Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Ethnic Gypsies and Travellers are recognised protected groups. The Council must have due regard to advancing equality of opportunity and eliminating discrimination in its decision-making.

Importantly, if the Council considers that permanent planning permission cannot be granted at this stage, then a temporary permission should be issued. Paragraph 15 of the PPTS recognises that temporary planning permission may be appropriate where unmet need exists and no alternative sites are available. Granting a temporary consent would provide stability for families while allowing time for the Council to identify and deliver suitable alternative authorised pitches.

Refusal without alternative provision would be disproportionate given the acknowledged shortage of deliverable sites.

In planning balance terms, the benefits - meeting unmet need, promoting inclusion, providing stability, and reducing the likelihood of unauthorised encampments - clearly outweigh any limited harm arising from a development of this modest scale.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Council to grant planning permission. In the alternative, a time-limited temporary consent should be approved until suitable and deliverable alternative Traveller pitches are made available within the Borough.

Kind regards