

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 14/01/2026 9:21 AM from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address:	Land At Rose Farm Downs Road Istead Rise Gravesend Kent
Proposal:	Outline planning application for the demolition of 64 Downs Road and erection of up to 154No. residential dwellings (including affordable housing), with all matters reserved except for access. Creation of a new access from Downs Road.
Case Officer:	Adeoye Lawal

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Customer Details

Name:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED]

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	<p>There are several risks around food security in the UK. Homes need to be built which is an acknowledged need, but farmland is under threat of conversion to housing even before brown field sites are fully utilised. Kent has an agricultural belt which should not be built on. This area is still a significant amount of land for growing crops. Housing and other land use should not be on our useable agricultural land. There is a high proportion of grassland in the UK, suggesting that much of the UK cannot be used for growing crops (DEFRA, 2024). So, we need to ensure that useable land is kept for growing crops.</p> <p>Being dependent on imports is risky particularly due to the current geopolitical environment, including wars and risk of war. Extreme weather events can affect production of food and reliance on imports does not seem wise. Defra also comment that the long-term decline in natural capital is a significant risk to UK food production (DEFRA, 2024). There has been a decrease in the percentage of food secure households in the UK, defined as 'access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life' (DEFRA, 2024). Access to affordable healthy food is crucial, which includes ensuring our agricultural land is kept for food.</p> <p>There is also a desire to grow one's own food. This has significant benefits for physical and mental health including being active in green spaces, access to fresh fruit and vegetables as well as connection with others. Given the strain the NHS is under, the need for good health and people's desire for food growing, access to allotments should be given the best possible consideration. The waiting times at Gravesham for allotments may be 2-3 years (Gravesham</p>

Borough Council,2026). There is a statutory responsibility for allotment provision where 6 or more people request this (Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1908). Given this statutory obligation is not fully met, this should be considered when agricultural land is sought for change of use.

Given the geopolitical uncertainties and climate risks, there are risks to fuel and food security. We may not be able to depend on imports. We need to ensure that our agricultural land is kept for growing crops.

Kind regards