

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 27/02/2026 2:54 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] Ridge Lane Meopham Gravesend Kent

Comments Details

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

Reasons for comment:

Comments:

In the last 10 yrs or so I've seen no evidence of planning enforcement along Ridge Lane. 20+ years ago the road was (as it should be now), a lane lined by lots of trees and greenery. Today you see a great stretch of the road looking like a continuous building site. Old, tall trees have been cut down and burnt, high fences and gates put up and people behind are doing what they like with total disregard to local planning restrictions. The council has been relying on people to follow the legitimate process without penalising those who have created (a now all too common habit) of retrospective planning and citing 'Travellers Needs'. As has been stated, the recent site on Heron Hill is apparently only 50% utilised so there is no need/grounds for more provision, ESPECIALLY on Green Belt land. Granting provision will only encourage more land grabbing, change of use applications and retrospective planning, destroying what's left of what was an attractive, tree-rich semi-rural LANE* (* 'A narrow road, often in the countryside..'). For a supporter to describe the proposed area as 'wasteland' sums up the total disregard this community have for the local environment. Being retrospective there's been no 10% bio diversity gain either. It should be reinstated as woodland without planning permission, letting natural habitats /wildlife recover. This area (without street lighting, mains gas, sewers or underground electricity or telecom cables) already suffers from intense flooding from lack of surface water drainage and such a development (that's heavily tarmacked) makes it far worse. The narrow lane has poor access and often gets blocked due to deliveries or simply by a handful of cars or vans. It is, as I understand it, an unadopted byway* (*only seemingly fit for horses, pedestrians and pedal cycles). It's therefore fair to

say it is characteristically set within a rural landscape. Altering the land levels and adding provision for 4 ancillary buildings, 4 static caravans, 4 tourers and 8 cars in such a small plot area puts far too much of a strain on the already fragile infrastructure. The lane already has chronic issues of potholes (repairs have to be funded by existing 'legitimate' residents). It would completely change the landscape from beautiful natural woodland to nothing better than ugly urban sprawl.

Fellow residents here have paid a high premium to live on approved residential plots with strict limitations on what they can build, in what style and size, i.e. to maintain the openness and environmental Green Belt values. The argument that 'everyone needs a home' is not relevant. It should not mean tearing up Green Belt policy and literally ruining the nature of the area to provide for the travelling community. Alternative brownfield sites should be made available but the Heron Hill site suggests the need ISN'T there. There are few local facilities. Safety for pedestrians is a problem. There are no pavements; no street lights; a steep busy hill (Heron Hill Lane is the main exit route to the A227); poor access on foot via alternative footpaths due to mud/flooding and an infrequent, expensive bus service. A more urban site would be far more suitable for families.

Kind regards