

Planning Application Number 20260649

Land North of The Driveway Istead Rise Gravesend DA13 9JY

I wish to object to Planning Application 20260649 concerning land north of the Driveway Istead Rise Gravesend DA13 9JY.

Whilst I acknowledge the need for additional affordable housing I do not consider that this proposal adequately addresses that need in a sustainable or appropriate manner. In my view, the development would place an unacceptable burden on the local rural community and would have significant adverse effects on the surrounding environment.

The proposed development would result in the permanent loss of valuable farmland and home grown food production. This land forms an important part of the local rural landscape and should not be sacrificed without very careful consideration of the long term consequences.

The construction of 100 new homes would inevitably increase traffic in the area. This would add to existing congestion on the A227 and would also contribute to increased emissions, air pollution and pressure on local roads, including access to the A2.

Public transport provision is limited and unreliable, and there is no safe pedestrian access to the nearest railway station at Meopham via the busy A227. As a result, future residents would be heavily dependent on private cars or taxis. This would increase household costs and calls into question the practical affordability and sustainability of the proposed housing.

The proposal would also place further strain on local services and infrastructure that are already under pressure, including doctors' surgeries, hospitals, school places, water supply and other essential community facilities serving existing residents.

There are already frequent water supply issues in the area. It is therefore essential that clear evidence is provided to demonstrate how a further 100 homes could be supported without worsening existing problems for current residents.

Although local shops may provide basic necessities, the development is likely to increase reliance on online supermarket deliveries and other vehicle-based services. This would generate additional traffic and further pollution in a rural area that should be protected from avoidable environmental harm.

Greater emphasis should be placed on using empty buildings, brownfield land and sites within urban areas where public transport, shops, schools and community infrastructure are already in place, rather than developing rural land that provides important environmental and community value.

I am particularly concerned about the loss of natural habitat. Wildlife, trees, hedgerows, green spaces and establish ecosystems contribute significantly to local biodiversity, the character of the area and the environmental health of the rural landscape. Once such habitats are damaged or removed they cannot simply be replaced and the effects on local wildlife may be long lasting. This proposal would also add to the environmental disruption already experienced locally as a result of recent building works, including the loss of valued trees during the construction of 8 new flats. Trees are an important part of the local landscape, providing natural shelter, supporting wildlife and contributing to air quality.

During construction, residents and wildlife would be exposed to additional noise, dust, pollution and disturbance over what is likely to be a lengthy building period. This would cause considerable disruption to the local area and further undermine the rural character of the surroundings.

In conclusion, I believe this proposal fails to give sufficient weight to the importance of rural land, farmland, natural habitats, local biodiversity, traffic impact, air quality, infrastructure capacity and the well being of existing residents.

For these reasons I respectfully request that the application be refused.


 Lyndhurst Way, Istead Rise, Gravesend DA13 9EW