

**To: Rebecca Harrison, Planning Officer
Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU**

Dear Ms Harrison,

Planning Application 20260649 – Proposed development of up to 100 homes, The Drove Way, Istead Rise

I am writing as a resident of The Drove Way, Istead Rise, to strongly object to the proposed development of up to 100 new homes to the rear of The Drove Way.

My main concerns are:

Traffic and road safety

The roads around Istead Rise are already very busy at peak times, particularly the routes and junctions connecting us to the A227 and Downs Road.

Adding up to 100 homes would generate additional traffic. I am worried about the impact on congestion, junction capacity and road safety, particularly on the narrower rural roads.

Our mental health could be affected with the impact of increased traffic, including additional noise and vehicle emission affecting quality of life of existing residents especially during construction with contractor vehicles and inevitable dust and toxins in the air.

Lack of public transport and sustainable travel

Istead Rise has no railway station and only limited bus services. There are also no safe and practical walking or cycling routes to Gravesend or Meopham. Residents are therefore heavily dependent on private cars.

This is particularly concerning in light of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published on 17 August 2026, which places emphasis on sustainable transport, sustainable locations and reducing future car dependency.

Loss of Green Belt and countryside

The proposal would result in the permanent loss of open countryside and agricultural land behind The Drove Way. This land contributes to the rural character of Istead Rise and provides valuable habitat for wildlife.

What are the very special circumstances in this case that should allow it?

Water supply, drainage and flood risk

Does the local water and drainage infrastructure have sufficient capacity to support up to 100 additional homes?

Areas in the South East have been without water and has made national news so the Council should be satisfied that there is adequate water supply, foul drainage and

surface-water drainage capacity, and that the development would not increase the risk of flooding to existing properties or surrounding land.

Any proposed drainage measures should be properly assessed and demonstrated to be effective before the application is approved.

Pressure on local infrastructure and services

Local GP surgeries, hospitals and schools are already under pressure. Adding potentially hundreds of new residents would place further demands on already-stretched services and infrastructure.

The Council should be satisfied that sufficient capacity exists, or that appropriate improvements can be delivered, before approving.

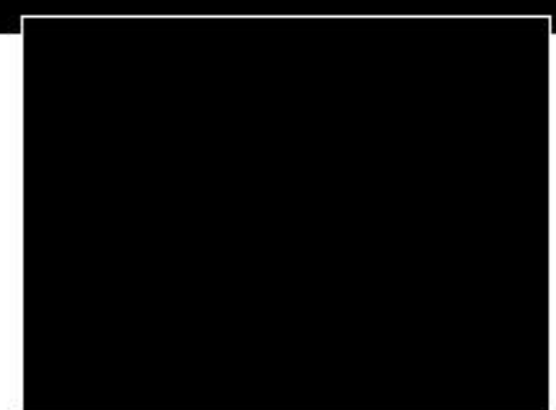
Summary:

I do not believe that a development of this scale is in the best interests of the existing Istead Rise community, particularly given the additional pressure it would place on our roads, services and infrastructure and the loss of valued countryside.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask Gravesham Borough Council to refuse planning application 20260649.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.

Yours sincerely,



The Drove way

DA13 9JY