

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 17/03/2026 9:22 PM from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address:	The Woodlands 217 Wrotham Road Gravesend Kent
Proposal:	Alterations to existing restaurant, including alterations to elevations, additional works to accommodate plant, new corral and bin store, demolition of existing single storey side extension with erection of new single storey side extension, minor external work to existing parking bays, creation of patio and other associated work.
Case Officer:	Mrs Lisa Fisher

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Address:	Central Avenue Gravesend

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments:	I strongly object to the proposal to convert the existing Beefeater site into a McDonald's directly beside a primary school, a secondary school, and a children's park. This location is entirely unsuitable for a fast-food outlet of this scale, and the development would introduce significant risks to children's health, safety, and overall wellbeing. The increase in traffic associated with a McDonald's-particularly one with a drive-thru-would create serious safety concerns for the large number of children who walk to and from the nearby schools and use the adjacent park. The roads in this area are already busy at peak times, and adding high-volume customer traffic, delivery vehicles, and late-night car movements would substantially heighten the risk of accidents. The council has a responsibility to prioritise child safety, and approving a development that knowingly increases danger to young pedestrians would be irresponsible. The health implications for local children are equally concerning. Placing a fast-food outlet directly beside two schools undermines efforts to promote healthy eating and reduce childhood obesity. It would make unhealthy food easily accessible before and after school, increase pressure on children through peer influence, and directly contradict the health and wellbeing policies that schools
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and local authorities are expected to uphold. Many councils across the UK have already restricted fast-food outlets near schools for these reasons; approving this application would run counter to established public-health guidance.

The presence of a McDonald's next to a children's park would also damage the character and purpose of this important community space. Fast-food outlets are well-known sources of litter, food waste, and noise, all of which would spill into the park and surrounding area. This would degrade the environment, attract pests, and reduce the park's suitability as a safe, clean, family-friendly space. Increased noise and antisocial behaviour, particularly during evenings, would further undermine the park's value to local families.

Replacing the existing Beefeater with a high-turnover fast-food chain would also diminish the character of the area. The Beefeater currently provides a calmer, sit-down, family-oriented venue. Its loss would reduce the diversity of local dining options and replace a community-friendly establishment with a business model that brings heavy traffic, extended operating hours, and increased disturbance for nearby residents.

Finally, the environmental impact of the proposed development cannot be ignored. A McDonald's would generate significantly more noise, litter, and carbon emissions than the current use. These negative effects would fall disproportionately on the children who attend the nearby schools and use the park daily.

For all these reasons, the proposed development is fundamentally incompatible with the surrounding environment, which is centred on children, education, and community wellbeing. The risks to safety, health, and the local environment far outweigh any commercial benefit. I therefore urge the council to reject this application in full.

Kind regards