

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 17/02/2026 5:32 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] Valley Lane Gravesend

Comments Details

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

Reasons for comment:

Comments:

I object to this retrospective change of use planning application.

Destruction of the Natural Environment: We have lived here for 12 years and were under the impression that this area was, and would always remain, protected Green Belt. Private / non-traveller/ residents in the area have been criticised by Gravesham Council planning department for erecting sheds or hard-standing areas within their own gardens, on the grounds that these are destroying the Green Belt. However the Council are now allowing people to buy (or occupy unlawfully) plots of woodland that have NO planning permission, destroy all the trees and shrubs on the plot, then submit retrospective planning permission once the environment has been stripped of nature. The UK already has a massively depleted number of wildlife species, and the Culverstone Valley area was rich habitat for native woodland species. This ancient woodland is now severely broken up into small unconnected plots consisting largely of land owned by private residents whose houses were built according to the Green Belt regulations. Wildlife corridors are essential to maintain populations of animals and plants. It is my understanding that every new build proposal has to provide a net gain in biodiversity. As trees on these plots on Ridge Lane have already been destroyed, they should be replanted with native trees, not further paved over with concrete and man-made structures. The destruction of woodland performed by the traveller site on Heron Hill Lane is appalling.

Roads and transport: Ridge Lane is an unadopted road in a constant state of disrepair. It is very narrow, full of recurring pot holes, and is totally unsuitable for any further increase in the number of vehicles using it. It is not wide enough for a

mobile home to pass along it without destroying hedges and existing fences and damaging remaining trees. Heron Hill Lane is the main access route to reach the tarmac road A227, and this too is narrow, steep, and full of pot holes. Heron Hill Lane already has increased traffic due to the traveller pitches on destroyed woodland at the eastern Harvel village end of it. It cannot cope with more traffic. There are few passing places anywhere in the valley roads.

Drainage: Culverstone Valley roads are largely unadopted and despite residents' efforts to maintain the road surfaces, potholes are impossible to repair for any length of time. We cannot install tarmac as the cost of providing tarmac with the appropriate drainage and soakaways for such a road surface is prohibitive. There is no compulsion for any household to contribute to paying for, or performing, road repairs, so many do not. If Gravesham Council were prepared to pay for the upkeep and drainage of these roads, then residents' objections to new developments may be reduced. The drains in Vigo and Meopham are insufficient to cope with the amount of current rainfall, and we experience flooding along the lanes frequently, often as a result of overflowing drains further uphill which should be improved by the council. These proposed new traveller pitches will concrete over the soil and create flooding into the plots below on Rhododendron Avenue.

Intimidation:

[REDACTED] The character of this area is changing and because of such incidents and planning applications like this, many private residents are struggling to sell their houses and feel it is becoming a less desirable area to live in.

Kind regards