

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 24/02/2026 8:50 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] Lombard street Kent

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: I write in strong support of this application.

When assessed against the statutory development plan, national policy, and material considerations, there is a compelling planning case for the grant of permission.

First, there is a clear and persistent unmet need for authorised Gypsy and Traveller accommodation within Gravesham Borough. Both national policy and the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites require local planning authorities to identify and maintain a deliverable supply of suitable sites. Where such provision is absent or significantly deficient, decision-makers are required to attach substantial weight to proposals that would contribute toward meeting that need. In circumstances where the Council cannot demonstrate a robust and deliverable supply of pitches, this shortfall must weigh heavily in favour of granting permission.

Second, the development is already in situ and functioning as a small, settled residential site. The planning system exists to regulate land use in the public interest, not to create unnecessary displacement where a use can be rendered acceptable through planning control. The retrospective nature of the application does not reduce its planning merits and the site should be considered on its current planning impacts.

Third, although the site lies within the Green Belt, national policy is clear that inappropriate development may be approved where very special circumstances exist. In this case, those circumstances include the acute unmet need for Traveller sites locally, the absence of suitable alternative lawful pitches, the personal and family circumstances of the occupiers, and the requirement to avoid disproportionate interference with established homes. Case law and appeal decisions consistently confirm that unmet Traveller need combined with a lack of alternatives can attract very substantial weight in the planning balance.

Fourth, the decision maker must give proper consideration to the Human Rights Act 1998, in particular Article 8 (respect for private and family life and home) and the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised ethnic groups and therefore protected characteristics. Any refusal leading to eviction or displacement would require clear justification and a proportionate assessment of the consequences for the families concerned, including children's welfare, health, education continuity, and community stability.

Finally, planning policy requires decisions to be taken in a positive and solution-led manner. Where harm can be mitigated through conditions relating to landscaping, site layout, boundary treatment, occupancy restrictions, or access arrangements, national guidance encourages authorities to grant permission subject to those controls rather than refuse acceptable development.

Taking all matters together - the acknowledged shortfall in provision, the established occupation of the site, the limited scale of development, the absence of realistic alternative accommodation, and the statutory human rights and equality considerations - the planning balance falls decisively in favour of granting permission.

I therefore respectfully request that the Council approve the application.

Kind regards