

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 9:03 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] Saxon place Horton Kirby 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, having regard to the Gravesham Local Plan, national planning policy, and other material considerations.

The Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy 2014 includes Policy CS12 (Affordable Housing) and supporting text recognising the need for a range of accommodation types to meet local housing needs, including provision for Gypsy and Traveller communities. In addition, Policy CS19 (Development and the Historic and Natural Environment) requires development to be assessed on its actual environmental impacts rather than by designation alone, and allows proposals to proceed where impacts can be appropriately mitigated.

Importantly, Policy CS02 (Scale and Distribution of Development) supports sustainable development that meets identified local needs within the borough. Where the Council has not delivered sufficient authorised Traveller pitches to meet identified demand, this represents a material shortfall which must weigh significantly in favour of proposals that provide lawful accommodation.

National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites requires authorities to maintain a five-year supply of deliverable Traveller sites and to grant permission for sustainable sites where need exists. Where such supply cannot be demonstrated, this is consistently treated by Inspectors as a matter attracting substantial positive weight.

Although the site lies within the Green Belt, the National Planning Policy Framework confirms that inappropriate development may be approved where very special circumstances clearly outweigh Green Belt harm. In this case, the very special circumstances include:

- the persistent unmet need for Traveller accommodation within Gravesham
- the absence of suitable alternative lawful sites
- the established residential occupation of the land
- the limited scale of the development (only four pitches)
- the requirement to avoid disproportionate interference with settled family homes

Taken together, these factors form a compelling cumulative case capable of clearly outweighing Green Belt harm in the planning balance.

The decision maker must also give full weight to statutory duties under the Human Rights Act 1998, particularly Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life and home), and to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised ethnic groups for equality purposes, and national guidance confirms that their accommodation needs require specific and careful consideration in planning decisions. Any refusal leading to eviction would therefore require a demonstrably proportionate justification.

Planning policy at both local and national level emphasises positive decision-making and solution-led planning. Where any limited harm can be controlled through conditions relating to landscaping, boundary treatment, access, site management, or occupancy restrictions, national guidance supports granting permission subject to those safeguards.

Having regard to the development plan, the acknowledged unmet need for pitches, equality and human rights duties, and the limited scale and established nature of the site, the planning balance weighs strongly in favour of granting permission.

I therefore respectfully request that the Council approve this application

Kind regards