



Six Applications, Six Objections

There were six new applications on the Church Street site this week, not five. The sixth is the travel plan, and it is marked as a draft. The group objected to it on 11 September, so all six now carry an objection, and every one of them now has a closing date.

FOR THE GROUP 11 SEPTEMBER 2026

PART ONE

What happened this week

- 1 There were six, not five.** The 9 September issue said five applications arrived on 7 and 8 September. There was a sixth. MC/26/1719, the travel plan required by condition 15, was validated on 7 September, but the group did not find it until 11 September. That makes twelve applications on the Church Street land waiting for a decision, not ten. We would rather tell you than leave it.
- 2 The group has objected to it.** A six-page objection went to Medway on 11 September and is on the website to read. All six of this week's applications now carry an objection from the group.
- 3 Every one of the six now has a closing date.** Medway has published 21-day consultation periods, which is what the group's covering letter of 9 September asked for. Comments on MC/26/1722 and MC/26/1723 close on 1 October. Comments on MC/26/1719, MC/26/1720, MC/26/1721 and MC/26/1724 close on 2 October.
- 4 The application with nothing in it now has something in it.** MC/26/1721, on the Cooling Road highway works, had an empty documents tab on 9 September. It now has an application form and four drawings.

- 5 **Higham Road: the refusal is now official.** Medway issued the decision notice refusing MC/26/0194 on 7 September, with the six reasons agreed at committee. Any appeal must be made within six months. The draft minutes record the refusal and its reasons, but not how the vote went.

PART TWO

Where things stand

CONDITIONS IMPOSED

54

when the appeal
was allowed in
2023

EVER DISCHARGED

3

conditions 5, 6 and
53

WAITING FOR A DECISION

12

applications on the
Church Street land

OBJECTED TO

6

all six of this week's
applications

Last week none of the new applications had a closing date. Now they all do, and the first deadline, MC/26/1542 on contamination, is 16 September. On 11 September Medway's public file showed nine comments on that one, five on the recreation ground, and none on any of the six new ones. That is the gap the next three weeks are about.

PART THREE

What it actually means

01 The travel plan is a draft, and it says so

Condition 15 asks for a "Final Detailed Travel Plan" before each phase of the estate is occupied. The document filed by the developer's consultants, DHA, has "Draft" on its cover and the word DRAFT watermarked across its pages. Its own revision table calls it a "Final draft".

Once it is approved, a travel plan is what the developer has to do for the life of the estate. That should not be a draft.

02 It covers the houses and forgets the hub and the sports ground

The estate is to be built in phases, and Medway approved the phasing plan in 2024. The travel plan does not say which phase it is for. It treats all 250 homes as one, and it says nothing at all about how people will get to the community hub or to the new sports ground.

That matters most at the sports ground. It is reached from Buttway Lane, and the drawings for that junction say a coach cannot get in unless the corners are redesigned. How visiting teams and spectators will arrive is exactly what a travel plan for that phase ought to answer.

03 The promises made at the appeal have gone missing

When the appeal was allowed, a Framework Travel Plan was attached to the section 106 agreement. The group counts ten of its commitments that are missing from the new plan. Among them are a steering group with residents on it, personal travel advice offered to every household, a bicycle user group, improvements to the byway towards Cliffe Woods, and surveys by an independent fieldwork company.

A final plan is supposed to add detail to the framework, not take things out.

The framework said in terms that it would be "worked up" into a full plan before anyone moved in.

04 It starts from 2011, and may start measuring too late

The figures for how people travel now come from the 2011 Census. The plan gives two different dates for its first survey. On the framework's own estimate of how long the estate will take to build, that first survey could come after the three-year monitoring period the plan itself quotes from the section 106 agreement has ended. It sets a target of more than doubling bus use, and the only measure behind it is a line saying that "in time, a bus strategy will be developed". It also calls the main road through the village the B200.

The group has asked Medway to refuse it, or to wait for a final plan for each phase once that phase's layout has actually been approved. Nothing forces Medway to decide now: the condition does not bite until people move in.

What to do about it

Four dated posts and one standing habit. Two closing dates fall this month, and six more on 1 and 2 October.

Sunday 13 SEPTEMBER	Post how to comment in ten minutes. Post 2 of the "Before it's decided" campaign. Keep it to one action and one link: the website, where every application has its closing date and a way to comment.
Tuesday 15 SEPTEMBER	Last call for MC/26/1542, contamination and remediation. It closes the next day, 16 September. This one is about what is in the ground and what happens to it.
Wednesday 23 SEPTEMBER	Last call for MC/26/1646, the recreation ground. It closes on 24 September. This is the application that settles what the village gets in place of the rec, so it deserves the biggest effort of the month.
Tuesday 29 SEPTEMBER	Last call for the six new applications, the travel plan included. They close on 1 and 2 October. Say the group has objected to all six and that each objection can be read on the website.
Ongoing ANYONE	Send the link rather than only reacting to the post. Most visits arrive with no trace of where they came from, which is what a link shared in a WhatsApp group or a text looks like. That is how this actually spreads, and it takes ten seconds.

You can comment on the travel plan in your own words. You do not need to know any planning law. Say how you get around the village now, whether there is a bus you can actually use, and how you think 250 more households, a community hub and a sports ground will get in and out. That is exactly the question a travel plan is supposed to answer.

Where this comes from

Everything above comes from Medway's own planning register, the documents the developer has filed on it, and Medway's weekly list for Cliffe and Cliffe Woods, all checked on 11 September 2026. The travel plan was read in full, and so was the 2022 Framework Travel Plan it is compared with. The comment counts are what Medway's public file showed on 11 September.

The group has corrected itself this week on the number of applications, and says so at the top. Where it could not check something, it says that too: the section 106 agreement on the register is a scan the group has not been able to read, so the objection relies on the travel plan's own quotation of it and says so plainly.

Prepared for the Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Residents Development Group, 11 September 2026. Sources are Medway Council's public planning register and the applicant's own submitted documents, read on 11 September 2026. Not affiliated with Medway Council, the parish council or any developer, and nothing here is legal or planning advice.