

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell

Dated: March 2025

Budget

Our budget amendment failed and we were subjected to calls that we didn't value Violence against women and girls as we sought to remove the money from the citizens assembly. Nothing could be further from the truth, we have other current ways within the council to debate and look into subjects such as the overview and scrutiny committee so we didn't see the need for the new citizens assembly at this time as we move forward towards a unitary council.

Car parking charges in Maidstone are set to rise, Mote Park car parking charges will raise by 50%. There will be the creation of a citizens assembly and the money put towards the evidence gathering and reports that would be required in order to start thinking about the Leeds Langley Relief Road has been removed from the capital budget. The new Leisure Centre capital budget has been kicked into the long grass and no clear commitment to the rebuild of this facility in Maidstone is now shown.

Ward Work

MARDEN – I have been helping with a number of housing queries. The dog bins in Marden were overflowing and residents contacted me about them, so I contacted street scene to get them cleared.

NETTLESTEAD – I have managed to get MBC to the point where they will hand over the title deeds for the piece of land in Bishops/Bryants for parking to Golding but they would need to develop the actual car park themselves. Golding are currently unwilling to do so. I wonder if any more pressure can be applied via tenant routes or via the parish council? The Nettlestead bin is broken, was removed and is being replaced and I have asked about the other missing bins.

YALDING – I am still chasing Golding to get the hedges and trees in The Nook pruned to the residents satisfaction, they have been out a number of times but there is still work to do.

COLLIER STREET – I have been assisting with planning queries and fly tipping reporting.

HUNTON – An assisted bin collected had been repeatedly missed and I have chased the team and arranged for a full site clearance and the supervisor to visit the property and check that it is being emptied as required.

As always, if you need my help, please do not hesitate to email me at
claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk