

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell

Dated: March 2026

Council

The Heathlands SPD has been called in to Overview and Scrutiny for further assessment.

The budget was passed with a 3% council tax rise. We put forward two amendments, one to keep the car parking charges the same as last year and the second to re-instate the capital line to begin the Leeds Langley Relief Road evidence gathering work in order to keep the safeguarded area for the road in the next iteration of the Local Plan and to work towards a transport bid. Both were rejected.

The Article 4 Directive on Invicta House will be coming to Planning, Healthier Stronger Communities committee this week.

Ward Work

I contacted parking enforcement to get them to do an enforcement round in Marden as parking on the yellow lines was becoming a regular occurrence.

I have chased Planning Enforcement regarding a couple of cases in the ward.

I have emailed the Police Crime Commissioner to ask again about fully staffing the Cranbrook Police Station and making it open to the public.

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