

## **MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell**

**Dated: May 2025**

### **Council**

The new municipal year has begun and much is the same as before. I wasn't aware that the budget for the Citizens Panel for £100,000 covers two discussion items, I thought it would be for more than this. It appears that each topic discussed in this way comes at a cost of £50,000.

It looks extremely likely that MBC will shortly lose the 5 year land housing supply opening the door to speculative planning applications.

The administration have decided to halt work on revising the CIL charging schedule for developers contributions so the rates remain unaltered. They are about to open the next round for CIL bidding for infrastructure and information for infrastructure providers on how to apply will shortly be on the website.

There is also another round of the summer community support scheme and local organisations can apply for one-off funding of between £500 and £5,000 to help provide support for Maidstone residents and applications will open from Monday 2 June until Thursday 26 June 2025 – details on the link below.

[MBC Summer Community Support Fund](#)

### **Ward Work**

From across the ward there have been a number of queries asking who is now in charge of the Borough Council and who is their ward Cllr now showing a level of confusion between KCC and MBC.

MARDEN – I have been working on a council tax query and chasing planning enforcement.

NETTLESTEAD – The petition is up and running and I have also managed to work with our neighbouring KCC Cllr Sarah Hudson to persuade the bus company to get the bus stop lowered in height and to get extra signage in place.

YALDING – I attended Planning Committee for the Hatchgate House application and spoke in favour. The application was refused but solely on the grounds of size of the new dwelling.

COLLIER STREET – I have been in touch with planners again about the latest application for the Old Coach House.

HUNTON – No casework this month.

As always, if you need my help, please do not hesitate to email me at  
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