

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell

Dated: November 2025

Council

The budget process will be delayed slightly this year and may be impacted by the fair funding review, we should know more about the detail of this at the end of November. The results of the Lenham and Harrietsham by elections were that MBC now have three Cllrs from Reform. This changes the make up of the council to: Conservatives 13 seats, Lib Dems 12 seats, Green Independent Group 11 seats, Labour 6 seats, Independents 4 seats, Reform 3 seats. The committee seat places have re-jigged as a result of the results but the Green/Lib Dem administration retain control of the council.

We are still some way into pardoning ladies convicted as witches from 1652. There is now a statue, the statue has two male characters and a lady with a pointy hat and a cat. My group are very confused, we thought the point was that they weren't witches. The sculpture by Maidstone East station by the same artist cost £40,000 pre our administration, I complained about that one as it doesn't do anything and don't see why we should be spending this money on a different one when there is much more important work to focus on.

The Gypsy and Traveller DPD consultation has started and input into that would be welcomed.

The LGR process will have the work put forward to central government at the end of the month supported by the business case work that has been done. There was an initial public consultation run by Canterbury and most responders were from Maidstone, other areas had very few.

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