

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell

Dated: October 2025

Council

Local Government Reorganisation is continuing, MBC and the other district councils have put forward two options to work up further, KCC are continuing to work up their one unitary model and Medway are continuing to work up the Medway model. It remains to be seen which one is chosen by MHCLG but now that the devolved budgets are not on the table, along with the mayor, all options look to be potentially costly for us all as residents.

The Lenham and Harrietsham by election will be conducted this week (2nd Oct) and it may well change the make up of the council a little, most meetings have been postponed to accommodate this.

The beginning work on a new Local Plan is coming to various committees in October, but over a year has lapsed and work does not seem to be continuing at pace on this which is disappointing as we face continued housing pressures.

Ward Work

I have called the most recent Copper Lane, Marden application in to committee, there are many inconsistencies within the application that need closer scrutiny.

I am awaiting dates for various applications that I have called in across the ward to arrive at Planning Committee, they all seem to be taking a while to be programmed in.

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

claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk