

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell

Dated: September 2025

Council

We're starting to see the end of quarter 4 reports coming through into all committees. A lot is being made of the successes that were started by our administration such as the Leisure Centre improvements and the new Museum footfall due to the new gallery. Unfortunately some things have not progressed as well, the lighting strategy in the town centre seems to be lagging behind, three Cllrs resigned over the draft of the Heathlands supplementary planning document and in general the reports that we are getting through for the September committees seem thin.

The council has officially lost its land housing supply and speculative applications are arriving. A pre-application meeting was held for Land North of Marden for 900 houses. There are meetings scheduled in October to give an update on the Local Plan and to bring to committee ideas and strategy for the next Local Plan.

Full Council has been delayed until after the results of the by-election are known and we once again enter in to the period of restricted political activity until the by-election on the 2nd October.

Local Government Reorganisation is continuing with the preferred option due back to MHCLG in November.

Overview and Scrutiny

We have completed our empty property review and actually found a surprisingly small number of empty properties across the borough, all had detailed reasoning provided for why the owner or the housing association (in their case it was almost always pending refurbishment) had left the property empty. We now start to look at public trust in MBC and will follow up with a review of the CIL charging schedule as the leadership have decided not to review this now.

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