

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell

Dated: April 2026

Council

The Heathlands SPD was called in to Overview and Scrutiny for further assessment but was ultimately passed through to cabinet without any changes being recommended and has since been adopted.

The Annual meeting of the Council is scheduled for Saturday 16th May and the new Mayor will be Cllr Brian Clark (Lib Dem – Loose Ward area). The new deputy Mayor will be Cllr Denis Spooner (Conservative – Bearsted Ward area).

The Article 4 Directive motion that we raised in council has ended with a decision being taken to pursue a non-emergency Article 4 directive but to look at a slightly wider area than just Invicta House and to gather the evidence for this area.

There are various consultations open at the moment; Community Governance Review (CGR) for the unparished areas and Grove Green, Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order Review, Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order Review, Street Trading Policy.

You may have heard that the new recycling rules started on the 1st April but the good news is that our MBC recycling system already meets the new requirements. Collection days remain unchanged. You can now put Tetrapaks and cartons (like soup and juice cartons) in to the dry mixed recycling bin. MBC are working with communal properties to make sure everyone can take part.

Ward Work

I have chased about a number of fly tips across the ward this month. It has been a very busy month for fly tipping and clearing up fly tipping so for a short while the team fell below target but they are back to clearing quickly again now.

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