

70TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE 1953 FLOOD MEETING – FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER – 2pm

PRESENT: Janet Walden (Canvey Community Archive), Rosie Ryan (Environment Agency), Sarah Hollingham (Environment Agency), Graham Humphrey (NCI CoastWatch), Carol Reeve (Canvey Library), Edward Harris (Essex Record Office), Kate O'Neill (Essex Record Office), Laura Gould (Canvey Island Town Council)

Meeting opened with introductions to ensure new attendees were aware of who else was involved in the project. New attendees were Rosie Ryan from the Environment Agency and Graham Humphrey from NCI Coastwatch. Each member then shared their progress with the upcoming series of events being held on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd February 2023. Details of the progress made with the educational pack being provided for primary schools was also shared.

Update from Essex Record Office

Edward Harris shared details of the educational pack that is being provided for primary schools, he shared that the pack will be looking to go out to the schools in January. Edward shared that the pack is intending to be part of lesson plans that will then coincide with the interactive activities available to the schools at the event in the library on the 2nd February. It was discussed that contact with the schools should be made now, Essex Record Office, shared that they had trouble in liaising with the schools. Laura from Canvey Island Town Council offered to assist with this and said she would send out an email to invite all the schools to take part and ask for the best contact to send the packs to. Canvey Island Town Council sent out this email, and so far has had two responses, from Leigh Beck Junior and Canvey Junior School. Essex Record Office also shared that they would have interactive displays as part of the events on 1st and 2nd.

Update from the Environment Agency

Sarah Hollingham shared that they were looking at bringing different teams to their part of the event. They confirmed that they will be holding a drop in for residents regarding current flooding issues to be able to give residents as much information as possible. Canvey Island Town Council advised that they would be able to use its' meeting space for the two days of the event, and that timings would be confirmed as to not disrupt normal working hours. The Environment Agency shared that they intend to bring their TEAM2100 team, as well as members of the Local Resilience Forum and a team from the Lead Local Flood Authority. They will also be providing displays and information regarding the upcoming revetment project.

Update from Canvey Community Archive

Canvey Community Archive shared that they had put out an article in the echo and a post on social media asking for details of anyone who was involved in the flood. They want this to collate more stories and oral histories, for the events and their own records. They said from these that they had some positive responses. This also served as an open invitation for all, it was agreed that a poster would need to be created and that this should aim to be in circulation before Christmas. All agreed that relevant logos should be sent to ensure the correct ones are used. The Environment Agency shared that this needed to be given permissions and that there was a form that needs to be completed. They stated that this will be sent as soon as possible.

Update from Canvey Island Town Council

Canvey Island Town Council updated attendees that the plaque would have similar wording to the 60th anniversary commemorative plaque that is outside of the library. This plaque has

kindly been donated by Stibbards & Sons, and it was agreed that they should be approached about the installation of the plaque. This was discussed with them, and dates will be confirmed in due course. Canvey Island Town Council shared that they have an unveiling curtain that could be used for the event. The sending of invitations was discussed, and Laura from Canvey Island Town Council shared that a list of invitees was needed. The Lord Lieutenant of Essex has already been invited to unveil the plaque, however for official invitations a list is required. Laura shared that she would be happy to send out official invitations to dignitaries, however, would need this list as soon as possible. Laura also shared that she had liaised with Castle View School, who will be able to offer students on the Wednesday 1st February to help residents navigate the interactive elements of the exhibition in the library.

Laura discussed refreshments for invited guests, and that teas and coffees should be sufficient.

Update from St. Nicholas Church

Rev. Marion was unable to attend the meeting, however shared that she will be dedicating the plaque on Wednesday 1st.

Update from Canvey Library

Carol from Canvey Library shared that she had invited Coastwatch, and Canvey Community Choir to both days of the event. Coastwatch confirmed they would have a stall for both days of the event. It was discussed that Canvey Community Choir may be more fitting for the first day of the event, and that the second day where it is about the children, they may not be suitable. Carol discussed that she would liaise with Canvey Island Town Council in the new year to book schools in, with a view for each school to bring no more than 30 pupils.

Next meeting date was agreed to be Friday 13th January – 2pm.

Meeting ended at 3.45pm