



# Canvey Island Town Council



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

## History

Canvey Island lies off the South East coast of Essex in the Thames estuary. It is a unique place with an interesting and diverse history much of which can be attributed to its relationship with the changing water levels of the River Thames and the fact that the whole of the Island is below sea level.

The Island is commonly known for its Dutch influence and became home to around 200 Dutch immigrants in the early 17th century, who it is reported 'sought refuge from the Duke of Alba, the butcher of Flanders'. Two tiny Dutch cottages are preserved on the Island from this period of the Island's history one is still inhabited at 'Canvey Village' the other is preserved as a museum.

At the start of the 20th century, the population of Canvey numbered about 300 people. At about that time, Canvey was heavily promoted as a holiday destination, primarily for Londoners, to escape the smog of the big city. By the end of the First World War the population had reached 1,795 and the people kept coming. Since the 1930's, the west side of the Island at Hole Haven has been developed for use as oil refineries, and oil and gas storage which has met with a great deal of public opposition. In more recent times, some of the land previously used for this purpose has been 'reclaimed' and is currently being developed as a nature reserve.

The population of the Island has grown significantly since the turn of the Century to a little under 40,000 (almost 16,000 homes). The Island is now largely urbanised and residents' value highly the remaining green spaces on the Island. Canvey has been earmarked for significant regeneration within the proposals for Thames Gateway and many improvements in local amenities, facilities and infrastructure are expected because of this.

The Island lies below sea level and its relationship with the surrounding sea, whilst rich in bounties, has also brought its share of tragedy. The devastating floods of 1953 saw 59 people on the Island lose their lives. The whole Island was evacuated. A memorial to the people who lost their lives that day can be found at Canvey Library. There has been significant investment put into raising the height of Canvey's 14 miles of sea walls both immediately after the floods and again in 1975 when the wall was raised by a further two metres.

### **What is a Town Council?**

A Town Council is the first tier of local government and provides additional services on the Island to those provided by Castle Point Borough Council and Essex County Council. It is an elected body corporate with perpetual succession made up of local people representing the interests of the community.

### **Canvey Island Town Council**

Canvey Island Town Council has a Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and 9 other councillors representing various wards which are East Ward, North Ward, South Ward, Central Ward, West Ward and Winter Gardens Ward. The Town Council is funded almost entirely by the precept which is collected by Castle Point Borough Council on behalf of the town as part of the Council Tax.

## Town Mayors Report

The Town Mayor is Cllr Doreen Anderson

The Town Council have had many successful projects in 2022, and has started many other community projects this year, a few of which are detailed below:

- Quarterly Newsletters.
- Presentation of blue plaques for Ada Andrews and Clara James

- Brightening up the Town Centre with hanging baskets and planters.
- Christmas Lighting provision in the Town Centre.
- Signed up to the Wilder Town, Wilder Villages Scheme
- Completed a successful summer event program which included five successful events.
- Help & Support IT Session – helping members of the community to learn IT skills
- Created its 1<sup>st</sup> community garden at Sycamore Close
- Jubilee Picnic

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, the council held its Community Awards on Monday at its' Annual Town Meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Town Council wanted to recognise those individuals and groups who had made a difference in their local community. The successful recipients were:

### **Citizens of the Year**

Ivor and Anne Earl were recognised as Citizens of the Year for their tireless work to benefit the community which included setting up an appeal shop to aid the people of Ukraine during the turbulent times in that country. They also worked as marshals for the Covid vaccination clinic during the pandemic as well as many other aspects of community work.

### **Special Recognition Awards**

The Town Council awarded three special recognition awards to members of the community who were nominated for Citizen of the Year, these were:

Lee Sayer, who has volunteered for many different organisations that have worked in Canvey Island, he has also set up an information site in order to keep residents informed of important news in the area.

Angela & Gary Walford for their work organising fundraising events to benefit local charities and groups. The couple hold regular, well attended quiz nights that have raised funds for many organisations.

Jack Broomfield, who has taken responsibility for maintaining the many defibrillators across Canvey Island.

### **Community Group of the Year**

This award was presented to Jan Dee and Jackie Riches of Canvey Island School Uniform Bank, who set up a school uniform bank to help those in need to ensure that no child attending school felt left out due to not being able to afford school uniform.

### **Best Community Contribution from a Local Business**

The Town Council recognised Stibbards & Sons to be the recipient of the Best Community Contribution from a Local Business. The Town Council recognised the business' continued efforts in assisting the local community with donations, sponsorship and support.

The Town Council has enhanced its portfolio and now maintains many open spaces including lovely displays of summer planting within the town centre, seafront, and Jones Corner.

There are many projects on the go and the council is always looking to conserve the environment and improve the Island's open spaces. The council's areas of responsibility are:

- Management of recreational areas such as Canvey Lake, Tewkes Creek Wildflower Meadow, Concord Beach Tidal Pool, Labworth Memorial Gardens and the Band Stand.
- Canvey Lake Play Area
- Town Centre Planters and Hanging Baskets
- Planters at Jones Corner, Eastern Esplanade, Ferry Road and Canvey Way including the Welcome sign.
- Trees at Tewkes Creek Picnic Area and 15 trees planted at the rear of the wood.

- Two Allotments sites, Winter Gardens and Smallgains
- Ownership of land next to Winter Gardens Allotments
- Covid Memorial Garden
- Tree Charter
- Speed Watch
- Community Warden presence
- Working in partnership with ECC on public rights of way, footpaths etc

The council also have many projects to promote social and economic wellbeing within the community such as:

- Education including working with schools and adult education.
- All aspects of community engagement including youth and senior citizens, health issues, tourism, and remembrance.
- Information regarding bus services and bus shelters as well as attending meetings of the parish transport committee.
- Community events
- Festive Lighting in town centre/Jones Corner
- Publicity and promotion of the Town Council including a face book page.
- Town Guide
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Community Awards
- Litter Picking events.
- Hosting Police Beat Surgeries
- Health & Wellbeing Plan
- Dementia Friendly Location
- Blue Plaque Scheme

Additional projects that it has achieved in 2022/23 are:

- The presentation of 2 Blue Plaques for Ada Andrews and Cara James.
- Community Day Event showcasing local services available to residents
- Community garden in Sycamore Close
- Transfer of the Gunny site to Canvey Island Town Council
- Planting of 50 trees at Canvey Lake
- Help & Advice IT Support Sessions
- Scarecrow Competition
- Energy Saving & Cost of Living Information Event
- Jubilee Picnic

Sadly, the Armed Forces Day parade was cancelled in 2022, however, the Council still held its Community Awards, a very successful Garden Trail that raised £1,141.78 for CISCA House, a full summer events programme with 5 events aimed at children in the school holidays, and a large community picnic to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Doreen Anderson – Town Mayor - Canvey Island Town Council 2022/23

## Planning Committee

Chairman - Cllr Steve Sach

The Town Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications submitted to the Borough Council and Essex County Council by households, businesses, and organisations. The Council agreed in February 2020 that it only wishes to consider applications of significant local interest such as Major Change of use (if considered to affect residential housing or quality of life), large scale new developments, new properties/structures, or controversial builds (these will be reviewed

by the chairman/vice chairman to decide whether a meeting is required), new development on green open spaces.

The Planning Committee received in total 152 applications in 2022/23 and has commented on 7 in total.

## Policy & Finance Committee

Chairman - Cllr Alan Acott

The Policy & Finance committee review all policies, oversee the financial administration of the Council, monitors the Council's income and expenditure against budgets, make recommendations for action to the Council and provide financial support to local groups through the Grant Scheme.

### **Grants Given 2022/23:**

London Bus Theatre Company    £474.44

**Total:**

**£474.44**

### **Grants Received 2022/23:**

Essex Locality Fund x 3 Projects    £4198.12

Big Local Project    £20,000.00

Coastal Communities Project    £3890.00

Sponsorship    £5622.18

**Total:**

**£33,710.30**

## **COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2022/23**

### **INCOME (£s)**

Central Costs    £264,421

Grants    £28,088

Community    £13,142

Open Spaces    £4,278

**TOTAL:**

**£311,093**

### **EXPENDITURE (£s)**

Central Costs    £82,237

Grants    £475

Open Spaces    £61,427

Environmental Projects    £9,205

Civic & Democratic    £743

Community Projects    £51,425

Canvey Lake    £62,338

Earmarked Reserves    £5,842

**TOTAL:**

**£273,692**

## **THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEE SYSTEM**

The Council has three committees: Policy and Finance, Planning and Personnel. The Council and its committees will normally meet in turn at six weekly intervals throughout the Council year to assist in progressing the Council's business. The Planning and Personnel committees will meet on an ad hoc basis when required.

If you wish to attend a meeting, please check with the Council Office to find out where the meeting will be taking place. Agendas are displayed in the Council Office window, in Canvey Library and the Town Council notice boards which are situated in each ward.

Planning Committee meetings will normally start at 7.00pm. The Policy & Finance Committee meetings and Council meetings will commence at 7.30pm. Personnel Committee meetings will normally be held during the day. All scheduled meetings take place on a Monday unless otherwise stated.

The Town Council holds an Annual Town Meeting between 1<sup>st</sup> March and the 1<sup>st</sup> June which is a forum for the public to come along and question members on any matters relating to the work of the Town Council.

## SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Date	Day	Meeting
27.06.22	MONDAY	COUNCIL
18.07.22	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
05.09.22	MONDAY	COUNCIL
17.10.22	MONDAY	COUNCIL
21.11.22	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE – <b>BUDGET</b>
12.12.22	MONDAY	COUNCIL - <b>BUDGET</b>
30.01.23	MONDAY	COUNCIL
20.02.23	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
14.03.23	MONDAY	<b>ANNUAL TOWN MEETING</b>
27.03.23	MONDAY	COUNCIL
24.04.23	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
15.05.23	MONDAY	<b>ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2023/24</b>

## COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS.

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## CONTACTING THE COUNCIL OFFICE

11 High Street  
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### Opening Hours

Monday—Closed  
Tuesday—9.30—12.30  
Wednesday 12.30—2.30pm  
Thursday 9.30—12.30  
Friday—Closed.

Main Telephone: 01268 683965  
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