

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WHICH HAS LED TO POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Canvey Island Town Council engage and listen to its community on an ongoing basis to deliver positive outcomes.

The Town Council has refurbished the iconic Band Stand at the centre of the seafront location. This community asset had been left to deteriorate and was unused. Responding to residents and visitors requests the Band Stand is now enhanced further by holding regular events during the summer periods and the council is working with local businesses and community groups to make use of this community asset. This asset is now frequently used by local groups for events, as a free resource as well as the Town Council for community information and fun events.

The Town Council have been successful in its application to obtain free trees from the Woodlands Trust to enable it to plant 15 trees at Tewkes Creek. Responding to resident's request for more trees to be planted, the Town Council have worked with Castle Point Borough Council as the landowner to seek permission and agree a location for the trees. The ongoing maintenance is conducted by the Borough Council after a 3year maintenance scheme implemented with the use of the Town Councils allocated funds for this small project. Further tree planting took place at Canvey Lake, the Town Council successfully obtained funding from The Forest Commission for the planting and maintenance of 50 trees.

The Town Council installed bee posts in four of its open spaces with the aim to increase biodiversity and encourage pollinators to these areas. It also runs a scheme to encourage residents to plant sunflowers to encourage these pollinators.

The Town Council has installed a community garden in a previously unused green in a residential area, following requests from residents. After successfully obtaining funding from Calor Gas the Town Council was able to install two plant beds and a raised planter in the space which is now run by resident volunteers from the surrounding area.

The Town Council launched 'Help & Advice Computer Sessions' aimed at assisting residents using technology in an increasingly digital world. The sessions run by volunteers help residents using their own technology such as smartphones or laptops or they are able to learn on Town Council owned devices. The Town Council successfully applied for funding from Essex County Council for four laptops and three tablets that have been able to assist with this initiative. Following on from the success of these sessions the Town Council have partnered with The Salvation Army to offer Drop In Sessions to assist residents with form filling, benefits advice and employability.

The Town Council set up its own Heritage Plaque Scheme to enhance the historic achievements of its town or residents and has been working with Canvey Community Archives to investigate potential individuals to commemorate. The Council have erected three plaques around the island to commemorate Frederick Hester and those residents who lost their lives in the great flood of 1953, however, the first plaque was erected as part of the scheme on the 1st October 2019 following a suggestion by a resident. As of 2025 the Town Council has installed four blue

plaques at the request of residents honouring those that have made outstanding contributions to Canvey Island.

The Town Council conduct many litter picking events during the year and is a keen supporter of the Great British Beach Clean events. These events attract many volunteers and are supported by local businesses. These events have been extremely successful and attracted many volunteers. The council is supported by the Borough Council who have been kind enough to provide littering picking equipment free of charge. The Town Council received funding from Essex County Council for the purchase of 50 sets of litter picking equipment and a handcart to assist litter picking. Using this equipment the Town Council set up an equipment loan scheme for residents, and have regularly loaned equipment to local groups and schools. The Town Council continues to support litter picking events and groups throughout Canvey Island and actively seeks new areas and opportunities to improve the local area through targeted litter picks.

The Town Council holds an annual Community Day which showcases local organisations and charities to signpost residents to those services they may not be aware of. The event was established in 2022 and has been run on the last Friday in August with the next event due to be Friday 29th August 2025.