



Canvey Island Town Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

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 gives his condolences to all Canvey Island residences who have lost loved ones during the COVID Pandemic and thanks those residences who have volunteered to deliver food parcels or go shopping for those who are unable to leave their homes, also those who have been doing other types of voluntary work around Canvey Island.

The Town Council have had many projects put on hold or cancelled during 2020, however, it has still committed to various projects this year, a few of which are detailed below:

- Quarterly Newsletters
- Planting of 15 trees at Tewkes Creek

- Christmas Care Packages for 250 people who were isolating or eldery and alone.
- Brightening up the Town Centre with hanging baskets and planters.
- Christmas Lighting provision in the Town Centre.

The Community Awards will now be held in September 2021 due to the COVID 19 restrictions and the council have decided to change the awards to celebrate those that have as decided to change the format of the awards to reflect those that have selflessly given up their time to help others during these unprecedented times. There will be two awards in each category of Citizen of the Year, Community/Charity Group of the Year and Local Business of the Year. There will also be Special Recognition Awards available.

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 are 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, Band Stand, and the 4 seafront flower beds.
- Canvey Lake Play Area
- Town Centre Planters and Hanging Baskets
- Planters at Jones Corner, Eastern Esplanade, Ferry Road and Canvey Way
- Trees at Tewkes Creek Picnic Area
- Two Allotments sites, Winter Gardens and Smallgains
- Ownership of land next to Winter Gardens Allotments
- Annual Wildlife Event
- Tree Charter
- Speed Watch
- Special Constable Scheme
- Community Warden presence
- Working in partnership with ECC on public rights of way, footpaths etc

Additional projects that it has achieved in 2020/21 are:

- Planting of 15 additional trees at Tewkes Creek provided by the Woodlands Trust.
- Installation of the Welcome to Canvey Island planter.
- 2 new way marker signs in the Town Centre.

The council also has 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 Facebook page.
- Town Guide
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Community Awards
- Litter Picking events
- Keep Safe Location
- Dementia Friendly Location
- Blue Plaque Scheme

Additional projects that it has achieved in 2020/21 are:

- J9 Domestic Abuse Location.

The councils events programme had to sadly be cancelled in 2020, however, it is committed to progress these again once restrictions allow.

Alan Acott – Town Mayor - Canvey Island Town Council 2020/21

Planning Committee

Chairman - Cllr Peter Greig

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 246 applications in 2020/21 and has commented on 32 in total (up to May 2021).

Policy & Finance Committee

Chairman - Cllr Nick Harvey

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 2020/21:

Yellow Door	£1,000.00
CAVS	£1,000.00

Total:	£2,000.00
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Grants Received 2020/21:

Canvey Island Big Local	£391.00
Essex County Council	£5,176.00
	£1,994.10

Total:	£7,561.10
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COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2020/21

INCOME (£s)

Central Costs	£253,310
Grants	£7,561
Open Spaces	£4,140
Community	£675

TOTAL:	£265,685
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EXPENDITURE (£S)

Central Costs	£89,808
Grants	£2,000
Open Spaces	£54,934
Environmental Projects	£13,781
Civic & Democratic	£4,345
Community Projects	£40,058
Special Constable Scheme	£129

Canvey Lake	£55,087
Earmarked Reserves	£2,006

TOTAL:	£262,147
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THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEE SYSTEM

The Town Council resolved to change its system for carrying out its business through committees in 2020/21 and removed the Environment & Open Space committee and Community Relations committee. The Council now only has four committees: Policy and Finance, Planning, Personnel, and the Common Liaison Committee which is jointly run by 2 Borough Councillors and 1 Independent Chairman. The council 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. During this year, all meetings have been held online via Zoom.

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 and Common Liaison 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 1st March and the 1st 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. This did not take place in 2020 due to government restrictions.

SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Date	Day	Meeting
27.07.20	MONDAY	COUNCIL
07.09.20	MONDAY	COUNCIL
28.09.20	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
19.10.20	MONDAY	COUNCIL
30.11.20	MONDAY	COUNCIL
11.01.21	MONDAY	COUNCIL - BUDGET
01.02.21	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
22.02.21	MONDAY	COUNCIL
15.03.21	MONDAY	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - CANCELLED
29.03.21	MONDAY	COUNCIL
19.04.21	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
04.05.21	MONDAY	ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2021/22

COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS.

CENTRAL WARD

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WINTER GARDENS WARD

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CONTACTING THE COUNCIL OFFICE

11 High Street
Canvey Island
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SS8 7RB

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
Events: 01268 683971

Town Clerk: clerk@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk
Deputy Clerk: finance@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk
Community & Events Officer: events@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk
Community Warden: communitywarden@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.canveyisland-tc.gov.uk