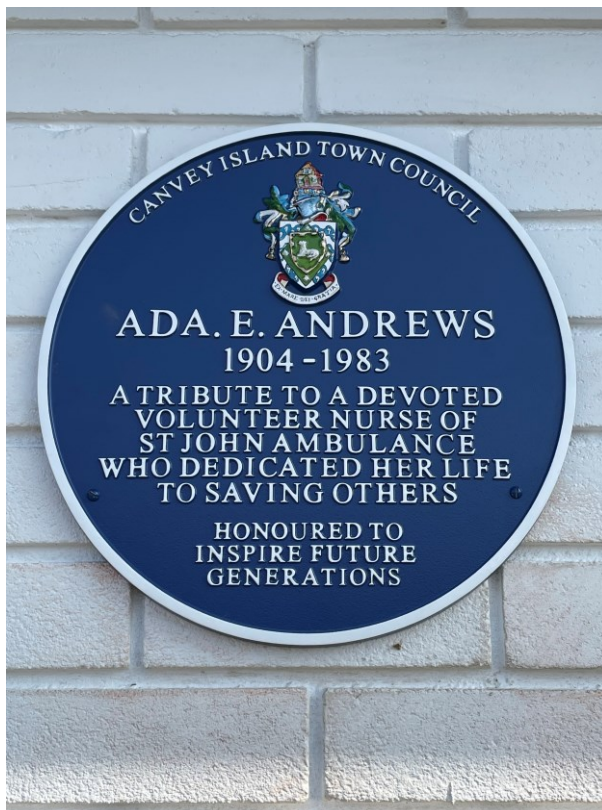




Canvey Island Town Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

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 pleased to be getting back to normal following a very difficult time during the COVID Pandemic

The Town Council have had many projects put on hold during 2021, however, it has still committed to various projects this year, a few of which are detailed below:

- Quarterly Newsletters.
- Commission of 2 Blue Plaques for Ada Andrews and Clara James.
- Covid Memorial Garden.
- Obtained the Quality Gold Award

- Brightening up the Town Centre with hanging baskets and planters.
- Christmas Lighting provision in the Town Centre.

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, the council held its Community Awards on Monday 20th September 2021 at a Town Meeting as the previous planned awards had to be cancelled due to the safety of holding an indoor event. The Town Council wanted to recognise those individuals and groups who had made a difference in the unprecedented times of the pandemic. The successful recipients were:

Citizen of the Year

Two awards were chosen, Alex Dobinson in recognition of her work with Yellow Door and working tirelessly through the Covid-19 pandemic running services to the community and Bill Dudbridge in recognition of his tireless round trips every day to the supermarkets collecting food for the foodbanks including meals and helping with the sorting and deliveries.

Community Group of the Year

Three awards were chosen, Canvey Island Community First Responders in recognition for their volunteer work to assist the East of England Ambulance Service. This group has been formed of residents running purely on donations from the community who set up a prescription pick up and drop off service for the community, while attending their everyday jobs during the Covid 19 pandemic, Yellow Door in recognition for all the volunteers who give up their time to sort and pack the goods brought in for the foodbank and helping with the deliveries during the covid-19 pandemic whilst putting themselves at risk for others, and finally to The St. Vincent De Paul Society St. Vincent De Paul Society in recognition for their work with the food bank identifying the vulnerable and delivering food parcels. Also, for using the church kitchen to cook meals and working with Yellow Door to deliver them.

Young Citizen of the Year

Jacob Lewis in recognition for his passion for nature and conservation and who has an incredible record of participating in various fund-raising activities to support many charitable organisations.

Two Special Recognition Awards

Two special recognition awards were also awarded to Rod Bishop for his continuous volunteer attendance at The Paddocks vaccination centre where his knowledge of so many people on Canvey put those nervous at ease due to his kindness and welcoming attitude when greeting them and Alan Browne for his work as the Community Champion at Morrisons and his work over the past year giving to food banks and encouraging young people to participate in competitions and helping the community.

The council also held its Annual Town Meeting on the 14th March 2022 along with its Community Awards which were reduced to three categories of Citizen of the Year, Community Group of the Year and Best Community Contribution from a Local Business with additional Special Recognition Awards in each category as the council felt all candidates were worthy of recognition.

Citizen of the Year

Victoria Vesey in recognition of her work with CAVS. She volunteers on two teams, helping vulnerable and socially isolated residents in the community. Vikki is also a Covid Marshall. In the run up to Christmas Vikki decided to put together a 'Reverse Advent Calendar Hamper', and organised, co-ordinated, and delivered over 48 hampers to some of the most vulnerable people so they had some lovely things to eat for Christmas. When requested to support the Paddocks Vaccination Centre on Canvey for the booster campaign she gladly went and covered shifts there too, including some very long days in the run up to Christmas.

Special Recognition Award

Hayley Black in recognition of her charity work in the community. Hayley has raised over £12,000 in the past year for local charities which she has done by completing sponsored walks, marathons,

and decorating her house for residents at Christmas. After overcoming personal challenges, herself, Hayley has used this as motivation to fundraise for her local community.

Community Group of the Year

Bobby's Big Heart in recognition for their hard work since setting up in 2017, asking for new toys for struggling families. Since its inception the group have received many donations not just gifts but food too and it has grown to 3,000 members who wanted to carry it on permanently. The group get regular referrals from social workers, mental health teams, volunteers from refuges and local schools where they pass on the information to families and the families contact the group for help. Bobby's Big Heart not only receive donations but also help deliver food parcels.

Special Recognition Award

The 22 volunteers at the St Nicholas Church Food Bank in recognition of them helping those needing food in the community, helping with the collection, sorting and distribution of donations and offering an invaluable service for those who need it most.

Best Community Contribution from a Local Business

Monico Leisure in recognition for its work within the community over many years, running surprise events for people who volunteer in the community, giving free use of the leisure park and cheeky monkeys soft play to vulnerable families and groups, giving free use of their function room to volunteer groups, and providing free meals at Jimmy Macs to vulnerable families.

Special Recognition Award

The Canvey Supply Company Ltd in recognition of its contributions to local projects and voluntary groups on Canvey Island.

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
- 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 2021/22 are:

- Planting of a Covid Memorial Garden in the Labworth Memorial

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.
- Keep Safe Location
- J9 Location
- Dementia Friendly Location
- Blue Plaque Scheme

Additional projects that it has achieved in 2021/22 are:

- The commission of 2 Blue Plaques for Ada Andrews and Cara James.
- Working with Essex Police to hold regular Beat Surgeries in the office and a pop-up stand for the EDFRS Safe Well and Secure event.

Sadly, the Armed Forces Day parade and Wildlife Day were cancelled in 2021, however, the Council still held its Community Awards, a very successful Garden Trail that raised £1,318.09 for the Phoenix Club, a Lake picnic and its annual Christmas event.

Cllr Barry Palmer – Town Mayor - Canvey Island Town Council 2021/22

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 208 applications in 2021/22 and has commented on 14 in total.

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 2021/22:

Friends of St Katherines	£500.00
CP Transport Museum	£500.00
CI Community Archive	£436.94
2187 CI ATC Squadron	£489.00
Total:	£1,925.94

Grants Received 2021/22:

Essex Locality Fund x 2 projects	£5,882.76
ECC Technology Inclusion Bid	3 laptops.
Castle Point Borough Council	1 box Litter Picks
Total:	£5,882.76

COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2021/22

INCOME (£s)		EXPENDITURE (£S)	
Central Costs	£252,681	Central Costs	£85,878
Grants	£5,883	Grants	£1,926
Open Spaces	£4,569	Open Spaces	£54,199
Community	£2,255	Environmental Projects	£9,570
TOTAL:	£265,388	Civic & Democratic	£3,285
		Community Projects	£47,665
		Special Constable Scheme	£194
		Canvey Lake	£63,915
		Earmarked Reserves	£4,621
		TOTAL:	£271,253

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 and the Common Liaison Committee in 2021/22. The Council now only 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 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.

SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Date	Day	Meeting
28.06.21	MONDAY	COUNCIL
26.07.21	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
06.09.21	MONDAY	COUNCIL
18.10.21	MONDAY	COUNCIL
29.11.21	MONDAY	COUNCIL
13.12.21	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE - BUDGET
17.01.22	MONDAY	COUNCIL - BUDGET
28.02.22	MONDAY	COUNCIL
14.03.22	MONDAY	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
11.04.22	MONDAY	COUNCIL
09.05.22	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
23.05.22	MONDAY	ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2022/23

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
Events: 01268 683971

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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