



Canvey Island Town Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

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 Council continues to run successful projects in 2023, such as:

- Installation of bee habitat posts
- The provision of a water safety event at the Band Stand
- Bee Campaign
- Coronation Competitions

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, the council held its Community Awards on Monday at its' Annual Town Meeting on Monday 25th March 2024. 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

Tony Roche was successful as Citizen of the Year for his work with the St Vincent De Paul foodbank.

Youth Community Group of the Year

Youth Community Group of the Year was awarded to the Canvey Island Swimming Club who support many students from the ages of 3 and their staff commitment in their roles.

Community Group of the Year

Community Group of the year was presented to the Home Library Service in recognition for their work with housebound residents and volunteering work.

Best Community Contribution from a Local Business

The Best Community Contribution from a Local Business was awarded to the Primary Care Network, for the care they provide to local groups and the older community.

Special Recognition

Special recognition awards were awarded to Cathy Taylor and Cliff and Jackie Larman, who were all nominated in the category of Citizen of the Year, and all give up their own time to improve, assist and contribute to the community.

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 councils' 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.
- Tree Planting Scheme such as Trees at Tewkes Creek Picnic Area, 15 trees planted at the rear of the wood and 50 trees at Canvey Lake.
- Two Allotments sites, Winter Gardens and Smallgains
- Ownership of land next to Winter Gardens Allotments
- Ownership of the Gunny Site
- 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.
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Community Awards
- J9 Domestic Abuse Location
- Community Garden – Sycamore Close
- Litter Picking events.
- Health & Wellbeing Plan
- Dementia Friendly Location
- Blue Plaque Scheme
- Wilder Town, Wilder Villages Scheme
- Police beat surgeries held on 11.05.23, 10.08.23, 09.11.23 & 15.02.23
- Community Day Event showcasing local services available to residents
- Help & Advice IT Support Sessions
- Competitions such as the Scarecrow and Jubilee Competitions
-

Additional projects that it has achieved in 2023/24 are:

- Water Safety Event
- Save the Bees Campaign - providing seeds to residents
- Kings Coronation Competitions

The Town Council held its' Armed Forces Day again in 2023, which saw a parade through the town centre to King George V Playing Field where a family fun day was held. The Council held its Community Awards, a very successful Garden Trail that raised £1,052.00 for Castle Point Transport Museum, and a water safety day aimed at families using the seafront in the school holidays.

Cllr Elaine Harvey – Town Mayor - Canvey Island Town Council 2023/24

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 2023/24:

1st Canvey Sea Scout Group £500
3rd Canvey Scout Group £500

Total: £1,000

Grants Received 2023/24:

ECC Locality Fund £2,720
MOD Funding £2,000
ECC Forestry Commission £4,725

Total: £9,445

COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2023/24

INCOME (£s)

Central Costs £277,757
Grants £9,445
Community £3,842
Open Spaces £3,879

TOTAL: £294,923

EXPENDITURE (£s)

Central Costs £78,206
Grants £1,475
Open Spaces £70,218
Environmental Projects £9,560
Civic & Democratic £24,712
Community Projects £47,890
Canvey Lake £66,073
Earmarked Reserves £4,095

TOTAL: £302,229

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 181 applications in 2023/24 and has commented on 15 in total.

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 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
26.06.23	MONDAY	COUNCIL
17.07.23	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
04.09.23	MONDAY	COUNCIL
23.10.23	MONDAY	COUNCIL
13.11.23	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE – BUDGET
04.12.23	MONDAY	COUNCIL - BUDGET
22.01.24	MONDAY	COUNCIL
12.02.24	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
11.03.24	MONDAY	COUNCIL
25.03.24	MONDAY	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
22.04.24	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
13.05.24	MONDAY	ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2023/24

COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS.

CENTRAL WARD

John Anderson
56 Church Parade
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9RH
01268 682514
cllr.janderson@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

SOUTH WARD

Elaine Harvey
1 Chamberlain Avenue
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 8AG
07816 474747
cllr.eharvey@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

NORTH WARD

Sheridan Sayes
11 Greenview
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9LB
01268 692052
cllr.ssayes@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

Dave Blackwell
31 Munsterburg Road
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 8HP
01268 512165 / 07870 800204
cllr.dblackwell@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

Susan Brooke
15 The Driveway
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0AB
07939 672558
cllr.sbrooke@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

Doreen Anderson
56 Church Parade
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9RH
01268 682514
cllr.danderson@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

EAST WARD

Alan Acott
114 Canvey Road
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0QN
01268 691563
cllr.aacott@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

WINTER GARDENS WARD

Peter May
23 Komberg Crescent
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 8ED
01268511030 / 07989441139
cllr.pmay@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

WEST WARD

Brian Botham
31 Limburg Road, Dutch Village
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0QH
07938 705383
cllr.bbotham@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

Steve Sach
11a Gwendalen Avenue
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 8JF
07568 137835
cllr.ssach@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

Peter Greig
9 Wamburg Road
Canvey Island, Essex SS8 8JR
01268 691771 / 07799 458251
cllr.pgrieg@canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

CONTACTING THE COUNCIL OFFICE

11 High Street
Canvey Island
Essex
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: admin@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