



Canvey Island Town Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

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 2024, such as:

- Drop in sessions in partnership with The Salvation Army to assist residents with form filling, benefits and employability.
- SEN by the Sea event to signpost SEN families to services available
- Pumpkin Carving Competition
- Tewkes Creek Picnic

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, the council held its Community Awards at its' Annual Town Meeting on Monday 10th March 2025. 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

Lin Ridgewell was successful as Citizen of the Year for her work in the community and being a huge support at Smallgains Social club within the older community.

Young Citizen of the Year

Young Citizen of the Year was presented to Frankie Wise who did his very best to perform CPR on a resident that had suffered a cardiac arrest

Youth Community Group of the Year

Youth Community Group of the Year was awarded to the Canvey Island Youth Football Club – Mini Kickers who voluntarily provide football training up to the age of 7.

Community Group of the Year

Community Group of the year was presented to Phoenix Club for the Disabled for many reasons, however a collective appreciation of the safe space they provide for their members was widely mentioned.

Best Community Contribution from a Local Business

The Best Community Contribution from a Local Business was awarded to the Morrisons Community Champion, for the awareness and contributions raised towards several local organisations and charities.

The Town Council has enhanced its portfolio and now maintains many open spaces and 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
- 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
- Blue Plaque Scheme
- Police beat surgeries held on 09.05.24, 10.08.24, 07.11.24 & 06.02.25
- Community Day Event showcasing local services available to residents
- Help & Advice IT Support Sessions
- Drop-In Sessions in partnership with The Salvation Army to help residents with form filling, benefits and employability.

Additional projects that it has achieved in 2024/25 are:

- SEN by the Sea Event
- Pumpkin Carving Competition
- Tewkes Creek Picnic
- Successfully obtaining funding from the PFCC's Safer Streets Fund to deliver a night safety project focussing on improving visibility for road and pavement users during the darker hours.

The Town Council held its' Armed Forces Day again in 2024, which saw a parade through the town centre to The Paddocks War Memorial, where a service was held, this was well attended by many residents. The Council held its Community Awards, a very successful Garden Trail that raised £939.00 for Yellow Door and its annual Christmas event.

Cllr Peter May – Town Mayor - Canvey Island Town Council 2024/25

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 2024/25:

Wyvern Community Transport	£500.00
Yellow Door	£500.00
Canvey Community Choir	£500.00
St Vincent De Paul Society	£500.00
Total:	£2,000.00

Grants Received 2024/25:

Canvey Big Local Fund	£3000.00
MOD Funding	£939.24
EPFC Safer Streets Fund	£2831.00
Urban Tree Fund	£4725.00
Total:	£11,495.24

COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2024/25

INCOME (£s)

Central Costs	£298,743
Grants	£11,495
Community	£4,509
Open Spaces	£4,116

TOTAL: £318,863

EXPENDITURE (£s)

Central Costs	£92,458
Grants	£2,000
Open Spaces	£55,948
Environmental Projects	£9,205
Civic & Democratic	£3,299
Community Projects	£56,758
Canvey Lake	£73,184
Earmarked Reserves	£4,064
TOTAL:	£296,917

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 152 applications in 2024/25 and has commented on 23 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
17.06.24	MONDAY	COUNCIL
15.07.24	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
29.07.24	MONDAY	COUNCIL
02.09.24	MONDAY	COUNCIL
11.11.24	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE – BUDGET
09.12.24	MONDAY	COUNCIL - BUDGET
20.01.25	MONDAY	COUNCIL
10.02.25	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
24.02.25	MONDAY	COUNCIL
10.03.25	MONDAY	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
31.03.25	MONDAY	COUNCIL - CANCELLED
28.04.25	MONDAY	COUNCIL
19.05.25	MONDAY	ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2024/25

COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS.

CENTRAL WARD

SOUTH WARD

NORTH WARD

John Anderson
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EAST WARD

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WINTER GARDENS WARD

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WEST WARD

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Steve Sach
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POSITION VACANT

CONTACTING THE COUNCIL OFFICE

The Paddocks Community Centre
Long Road
Canvey Island
Essex
SS8 0JA

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
Website: www.canveyisland-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk:
Deputy Clerk:
Community & Events Officer:
Community Officer:

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