



Canvey Island Town Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

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 still 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 over 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 as a result 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

I am pleased to say that the Town Council appointed me a Town Mayor this year and the title change was approved by the Council in May of this year. Canvey Island Town Council received a further prestigious award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme. The Town Council is one of only nine parish councils out of the 49 in Essex to have reached Quality Status of the awards scheme. This achievement demonstrates that the council achieves above good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Moreover, the Town Council goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further. The Local Council Award Scheme is a peer assessed programme that has been designed to both provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is through the sector working together to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the community, the council held its Community Awards at the Annual Town Meeting in March. The successful applicants were Jim Grotier – Citizen of the Year, MS Group - Community Group of the Year and Tyler Marney – Young Citizen of the Year.

During this year we have committed to various projects, a few of which are detailed below:

- Annual Events – Christmas Light Switch on, Wildlife Day, Armed Forces Day, Garden Trail, Summer Event programme, Community Engagement Program and Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth
- Partnership working with Castle Point Borough Council to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday with a beacon lighting ceremony.
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Refurbishment of the Labworth Memorial Gardens

Martin Tucker – Town Mayor - Canvey Island Town Council 2016/17

Environment & Open Spaces

Chairman - Cllr John Anderson

The Town Council maintains open spaces such as the Labworth Memorial Gardens and Bumblebee Park Gardens which had sadly fallen into disrepair since the disbanding of Canvey 2000. The tidal pool has been a great success and kept open with the support of Friends of Concord Beach and the town centre has continued to be brightened up with hanging baskets and planters with lovely displays of summer planting outside the Knightswick Centre, Jones Corner and outside the butchers.

Year 3 of the planned 5 year red maintenance programme has now been completed. The Community Warden has been working hard to encourage residents who live around the Lake to help or just report any rubbish being left by illegal fly tippers and now has the authority to issue Fixed Penalty Fines on behalf of Castle Point Borough Council.

The Environment & Open Spaces Committee maintain many projects and are always looking to conserve the environment and improve the Island's open spaces. The committee's areas of responsibility are:

- Management of recreational areas such as Canvey Lake, Tewkes Creek Wildflower Meadow, Concord Beach Tidal Pool, Labworth Memorial Gardens, Bumblebee Park and the 4 seafront flower beds.
- Town Centre Planters and Hanging Baskets
- Planters at Jones Corner, Eastern Esplanade, Ferry Road and Canvey Way
- Two Allotments sites, Winter Gardens and Smallgains
- Ownership of land next to Winter Gardens Allotments
- Providing financial support for a support worker with Legacy XS, cleaning and insurance for the Waterside Skatepark Bungalow
- Annual Wildlife Event
- Community Warden presence
- Working in partnership with ECC on public rights of way, footpaths etc

Additional projects that we have achieved in 2016/17 are:

- Installations of bollards, benches, litter and dog bins at Canvey Lake
- Repairs to the jetty at Canvey Lake
- New signage at Canvey Lake
- Re-vamp of the Labworth Memorial Gardens and new Welcome signage
- New CCTV at the Bumblebee Park
- New mural at Concord Beach
- New allotment fencing

Community Relations Committee

Chairman - Cllr Peter May

The Community Relations committee are responsible for many projects to promote social and economic wellbeing within the community. It is also responsible for the Town Councils publicity, promotion and events.

The committee's areas of responsibility are:

- 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
- Publicity and promotion of the Town Council including a new facebook page

The Town Council have provided several community events, all of which have been free of charge to the public. It has held two microchipping events in partnership with the Dogs Trust to offer free microchipping for resident's dogs, an older persons community safety event, and an educational event at Canvey Lake in partnership with Thames 21.

The Town Council continues to provide festive lighting to the town centre and Jones Corner as well as providing two Christmas trees throughout the festive period.

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 December 2012 that it only wished to consider applications for change of use (if considered to affect residential housing or quality of life), new developments and new properties or structures, however will consider all applications which is considered to be of significant local interest.

The Planning Committee received in total 173 applications in 2016/17 and has commented on 25 in total.

Policy & Finance Committee

Chairman - Cllr Nick Harvey

The Policy & Finance committee review all policies, oversee the financial administration of the Council, monitor 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 awarded in 2016/17:

Recipient	Amount
Canvey Island Youth Project	£500.00
Bay Museum	£500.00
Essex Fire & Rescue Service – Fire Break	£4,000.00
TOTAL:	£5,000.00

Grants Received

Community Initiative Fund	£7,543.00
TOTAL:	£7,543.00

COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2016/17

INCOME (£s)

Central Costs	£237,054
Grants	£10,557
Open Spaces	£10,222
Community	£3,587
TOTAL:	£261,420

EXPENDITURE (£S)

Central Costs	£79,115	Grants	£5,000
Civic & Democratic	£4,377	Open Spaces	£73,623
Environmental Projects	£11,358	Community Projects	£62,416
Canvey Lake	£67,034	Earmarked Reserves	£16,994

TOTAL: £319,917

THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEE SYSTEM

The Town Council resolved to establish a system for carrying out its business through committees. The Council has five committees: Environment and Open Spaces, Community Relations, Policy and Finance, Planning and Personnel. The first three committees will normally meet in turn at three 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. All other Committee meetings and Council meetings will commence at 7.30pm. 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
13.06.16	MONDAY	ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES
27.06.16	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
11.07.16	MONDAY	COUNCIL
12.09.16	MONDAY	ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES
19.09.16	MONDAY	COMMUNITY RELATIONS
26.09.16	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
17.10.16	MONDAY	COUNCIL
31.10.16	MONDAY	ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES - BUDGET
14.11.16	MONDAY	COMMUNITY RELATIONS - BUDGET
28.11.16	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE – BUDGET/PRECEPT
12.12.16	MONDAY	COUNCIL – BUDGET/PRECEPT - CANCELLED
09.01.17	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE – BUDGET/PRECEPT
23.01.17	MONDAY	COUNCIL – BUDGET/PRECEPT
20.02.17	MONDAY	COUNCIL
13.03.17	MONDAY	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
27.03.17	MONDAY	ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES
24.04.17	MONDAY	COMMUNITY RELATIONS
08.05.17	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
22.05.17	MONDAY	ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2017/18

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

Town Clerk:
Responsible Financial Officer:
Community & Events Officer:
Community Warden:

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