



Canvey Island Town Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

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 Londoner's, 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 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 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

The Town Council have committed to various projects this year, a few of which are detailed below:

- Annual Events – Christmas Light Switch on, Wildlife Day, Armed Forces Day, Garden Trail, Summer Event programme and the Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Enhancement of the Wildflower Meadow with 47 trees to mark the 100 year anniversary of WW1
- Establishing a Blue Plaque Scheme to remember people of significance to the island

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, the council held its Community Awards at the Annual Town Meeting in March. The successful recipients were Sandra Durrant – Citizens of the Year, Cast & Crew - Community Group of the Year and Canvey Island Rugby Club – Youth Community Group of the Year.

Barry Campagna – Town Mayor - Canvey Island Town Council 2018/19

Environment & Open Spaces

Chairman – Cllr Doreen Anderson

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.

The 5th year of the reed maintenance work at Canvey Lake was completed in December 2018 and 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 and has been working with the Environment Agency to monitor fishing licences at the lake.

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.
- 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
- Community Warden presence
- Working in partnership with ECC on public rights of way, footpaths etc

Additional projects that it has achieved in 2018/19 are:

- Planting of 47 commemorative trees at the Wildflower Meadow
- Establishing a Blue Plaque scheme
- Replacing the Welcome Sign on Canvey Way

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 Council's 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 in town centre/Jones Corner
- Publicity and promotion of the Town Council including a Facebook page
- Town Guide

The committee continued with its summer events programme to benefit residents and visitors with free, fun and educational events throughout the summer holidays, including the Punch & Judy Show and Beach Fun Day. It also continues with the Great British Beach Clean and its Community Speedwatch team to help tackle speeding across Canvey Island.

As well as festive lighting the Town Council provides 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, new properties or structures and replacement homes (to review applications for 2 properties or more), however will consider all applications which is considered to be of significant local interest.

The Planning Committee received in total 204 applications in 2018/19 and has commented on 41 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 2018/19:

| Recipient | Amount |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Canvey Island Boys' Club | £200.00 |
| Breathe Easy Canvey Island | £500.00 |
| Phoenix Club | £500.00 |

TOTAL: £1,200.00

Grants Received

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Rotary Club – WW1 commemorative trees | £1,150.00 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|

TOTAL: £1,150.00

COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2018/19

INCOME (£s)

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Central Costs | £243,914 |
| Grants | £1,150 |
| Open Spaces | £4,799 |
| Community | £9,770 |

TOTAL: £259,633

EXPENDITURE (£s)

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Central Costs | £87,432 |
| Grants | £1,200 |
| Civic & Democratic | £4,206 |
| Open Spaces | £64,169 |
| Environmental Projects | £13,268 |
| Community Projects | £51,432 |
| Canvey Lake | £68,129 |
| Earmarked Reserves | £4,668 |

TOTAL: £294,504

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 Carvey 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 |
|----------|--------|---|
| 11.06.18 | MONDAY | ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES |
| 02.07.18 | MONDAY | COMMUNITY RELATIONS |
| 23.07.18 | MONDAY | POLICY & FINANCE |
| | | |
| 03.09.18 | MONDAY | COUNCIL |
| | | |
| 24.09.18 | MONDAY | ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES - BUDGET |
| 15.10.18 | MONDAY | COMMUNITY RELATIONS - BUDGET |
| 05.11.18 | MONDAY | POLICY & FINANCE – BUDGET/PRECEPT |
| | | |
| 26.11.18 | MONDAY | COUNCIL – BUDGET/PRECEPT |
| | | |
| 17.12.18 | MONDAY | ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES |
| 14.01.19 | MONDAY | COMMUNITY RELATIONS |
| 04.02.19 | MONDAY | POLICY & FINANCE |
| | | |
| 25.02.19 | MONDAY | COUNCIL |
| | | |
| 11.03.19 | MONDAY | ANNUAL TOWN MEETING |
| | | |
| 01.04.19 | MONDAY | ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES |
| 15.04.19 | MONDAY | COMMUNITY RELATIONS |
| 29.04.19 | MONDAY | POLICY & FINANCE |
| | | |
| 13.05.19 | MONDAY | ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2019/20 |
| | | |

COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

CENTRAL WARD

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WINTER GARDENS WARD

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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:
Deputy Clerk:
Community & Events Officer:
Community Warden:

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