



Canvey Island Town Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

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, Armed Forces Day, Garden Trail, Summer Event programme and the Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Unveiling its first Blue Plaque since establishing its Scheme to remember people of significance to the island
- The launch of the Special Constable Scheme for Canvey Island.
- Taking over and refurbishing the Band Stand
- Enhancing its Christmas lighting provision

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, the council held its Community Awards at the Annual Town Meeting on the 9th March 2020. The successful recipients were:

Citizen of the Year

Joan Lythgoe in recognition of her work with Business Opportunities for the Physically Handicapped which she has been running since 1995.

Community Group of the Year

Canvey Island Community First Responders in recognition for their dedication and tireless efforts in giving up their own free time for the wellbeing of the community

Best School Community Project

Cornelius Vermuyden School in recognition for their work in setting up an ECO council and for the students who work tirelessly to improve the environment on Canvey Island and around the school

Young Person of the Year

Oliver Payne in recognition for his dedication at school to achieving a Bronze Eco Award and through hard work is striving towards achieving the Silver Award for the school.

Best Community Contribution from a Local Business

Morrison's Supermarket in recognition for their charity work and support of the local community.

Alan Acott – Town Mayor - Canvey Island Town Council 2019/20

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 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, Band Stand 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
- Speed Watch
- Community Warden presence
- Working in partnership with ECC on public rights of way, footpaths etc

Additional projects that it has achieved in 2019/20 are:

- Re-establishing the Wildflower Meadow
- Unveiling the 1st plaque under the Blue Plaque scheme for Ove Arup on the Labworth Cafe
- Refurbishing the Band Stand
- Launching the Special Constable Scheme on Canvey Island with 1 Special Constable so far

Community Relations Committee

Chairman - Cllr Barry Campagna

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.

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
03.06.19	MONDAY	ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES
24.06.19	MONDAY	COMMUNITY RELATIONS
15.07.19	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
02.09.19	MONDAY	COUNCIL
23.09.19	MONDAY	ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES - BUDGET
14.10.19	MONDAY	COMMUNITY RELATIONS - BUDGET
04.11.19	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE – BUDGET/PRECEPT
25.11.19	MONDAY	COUNCIL – BUDGET/PRECEPT
16.12.19	MONDAY	ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES
13.01.20	MONDAY	COMMUNITY RELATIONS
03.02.20	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE
24.02.20	MONDAY	COUNCIL
09.03.20	MONDAY	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
23.03.20	MONDAY	ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES – cancelled due to COVID-19
06.04.20	MONDAY	COMMUNITY RELATIONS – cancelled due to COVID-19
27.04.20	MONDAY	POLICY & FINANCE - cancelled due to COVID-19
18.05.20	MONDAY	ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2020/21 – Postponed to May 2021

COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

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CONTACTING THE COUNCIL OFFICE

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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

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