

## ENGAGEMENT WITH DIVERSE GROUPS IN THE COMMUNITY

Canvey Island Town Council engages with diverse groups in the community by the following:

**Volunteer Groups** - The Town Council runs a volunteer scheme called Lake Watch who work with the council keeping an eye on the lake and its open space and reporting any issues that the council need to be aware of. It has funded Hi Vis vests for the volunteers and located signage around the lake for the scheme and advertises recruitment at its Annual Town Meeting. It also supports a Community Speed Watch Group to help tackle speeding in problem areas across Canvey Island. Committed 1,480 volunteer minutes in 2019 producing 84 vehicles being reported for speeding

**Community Awards** - The Town Council presents awards at its Annual Town Meeting each year in the categories of Citizens of the Year (over 18 years), Community Group of the Year, Best School Community Project of the Year, Young Person of the Year (18 years or under) and Best Community Contribution from a Local Business. Each category has a separate trophy, and the nominations are made by residents and not the council. This is an initiative to recognise those individuals and organisations who selflessly give up their time in our community to help others without expecting any recognition or make a significant contribution to the quality of life for residents of Canvey Island.

**Grant Scheme** - The Town Council allocates a budget of £5,000.00 per year to give grants to a diverse range of local charities or groups. The grants awarded last year were Canvey Island Age Concern, Yellow Door and CAVS. The council continuously advertise the grant scheme in its quarterly newsletters to inform the community that the scheme is available.

**Charity Garden Trail** – The charity garden trail involves many parts of the community and helps promote healthy living and exercise. A local charity is chosen by the council and gardeners provide refreshments, jams, and cakes to help raise additional money to go along with the sale of the brochure giving the locations of each garden which is supported by many local businesses who promote and sell the brochures at their premises.

**Community Events** – The Town Council run a variety of annual Community Events which are the Wildlife Day, which is partnered with the RSPB, Armed Forces Day which is partnered with the Royal British Legion, Charity Garden Trail, Christmas, and various smaller summer events. All events cater for a variety of diverse groups within the community such as teaching the young about wildlife, supporting the elderly and veterans, local gardeners, schools, churches, supporting local charities and local businesses.

**Heritage Plaque Scheme** – The Town Council have recently adopted a Heritage Plaque scheme and works closely with the Canvey Community Archive group and residents who provide valuable information on local history and worthy recipients. It has set aside an annual budget of £5,000 for the purchase of 5 plaques per year.

**Community Hub** – The Town Council is a Keep Safe Location, a Dementia Friendly hub for helping residents with dementia and anxiety and those residents who need a safe location and a J9 Domestic Abuse location. The staff have been trained to help those in need and contact groups that can assist any resident that comes to the office for support.