

Canvey Island Town Council

HERITAGE PLAQUES POLICY

CRITERIA FOR GRANTING A PLAQUE

1. In the case of an Individual

- If the person was eminent in his or her field and is listed in appropriate general national biographical sources for the period; for instance, the Dictionary/New Dictionary of National Biography, Who's Who/Who Was Who, Men and Women of the Time, the Times Obituary, or recognised specialist biographical sources, and had a significant connection with one or more places in Canvey Island, such as a residence of five years, place of birth, place of business etc.,

OR

- If the person made a definite contribution to the history of Canvey Island, does not appear in the relevant national sources but had a significant connection with one or more places in Canvey Island, such as a residence of five years, place of birth, place of business etc.
- Only one plaque will be erected per person – please ensure the nominee has not already been commemorated elsewhere by a plaque in Canvey Island.
- At least 20 years must have passed since a nominee's death.
- At least one building associated with the figure must survive within Canvey Island.
- The building must survive in a form that the commemorated person would have recognised and be visible from a public highway.

2. In the case of an Event

- If it was of considerable importance to the history or development of the town.

3. In the case of a Building

- If, unconnected with an important person, the building was significant in the history or development of Canvey Island, or is of great antiquity, or of architectural importance.
- Buildings with many personal associations, such as churches, schools, and theatres, are not normally considered for plaques.
- No more than two plaques are allowed on one building.

Please note:

Proposals will not be considered for the commemoration of individuals still living.

Evaluation criteria for commemorative blue plaques in Canvey Island

Canvey Island Town Council welcomes suggestions for plaques from residents and organisations alike.

Proposers (whether individuals or organisations) are limited to the submission of one proposal per calendar year for a single subject or for events or buildings meeting the criteria outlined in clauses 2 and 3 above.

The following criteria will be used by Canvey Island Town Council to assess proposals for the installation of permanent commemorative blue plaques in Canvey Island. This is based on the criteria adopted by English Heritage.

All plaque suggestions meeting the following basic conditions of acceptance will be considered by Full Council, individuals should have been deceased for twenty years, and have a demonstrable association with a surviving Canvey Island home or workplace.

Owing to the limited resources available, the Town Council reserves the right to determine priorities among the subjects suggested.

- a) For proposals concerning famous or important people, the following requirements must, in the judgement of the Council, be met:
 - i. They should be of significant public standing.
 - ii. They should be understood to have made some important positive contribution to human welfare or happiness.
 - iii. Their achievements should have made an exceptional impact in terms of public recognition.
 - iv. There shall be strong grounds for believing that they are regarded as eminent and distinguished by a majority of members of their own profession or calling.
- (b) Without exception, proposals for such commemoration will not be considered until the subject has been dead for twenty years.
- (c) A person's residence in Canvey Island should have been for a significant period, in length of time or in importance, within their life and work. Where this association is less than five years, far greater stringency will be applied in assessing the case.
- (d) No individual will be either shortlisted or not shortlisted based on gender, race, or sexuality.
- (e) Proposals will be considered for plaques commemorating more than one person. In such instances, each of the figures to be commemorated must be of significance and, in the judgement of the Council, meet the criteria.
- (f) Animals and fictitious characters will not be considered for commemoration.
- (g) Proposals can be considered for the commemoration of buildings that have a historical significance worthy of public notice – other than a particular personal association – either because:
 - i. a historical event of particular importance occurred there, or
 - ii. the building had an important historical significance that is not obvious from its present appearance, use or any existing commemoration.

Proposals in this category can be accepted and assessed only as resources permit, and at the discretion of the Council.

- (h) Although most plaques are erected on houses, flats and places of work associated with famous people, other types of buildings are not excluded. However, plaques shall not be erected to commemorate short term associations with educational or ecclesiastical buildings, military establishments, hospitals, hotels, private clubs, or on any other building that is associated with so many well-known figures as to make the selection of an individual for commemoration inappropriate or invidious.

Adopted & Amended by Full Council – 22nd February 2021 – next review date Feb 2026.

- (i) A plaque will only be placed on a building fabric that is contemporary with or pre-dates the association being commemorated unless the circumstances are exceptional, and never on the site of a former residence or on buildings that have since been radically altered.
- (j) A plaque must be clearly visible from the public highway and will normally only be erected on a building and not on a boundary wall or gate pier.
- (k) Proposals will not be considered where a person's association with the relevant building is already clearly and permanently marked or commemorated in some way, by local authorities, privately, or under some other initiative.
- (l) Proposals will also not be considered where a person has already been commemorated by a plaque previously erected elsewhere by the Town Council.