



MEETING OF THE CANVEY ISLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

Approved

Date: Friday 22nd May 2026

Time: 10:00am

**Location: The Paddocks Community Centre,
Canvey Island**

INVITEES

Name	Role	Organisation
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BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Bish	Chair	Castle Point and Rochford School Sports Partnership
Cllr David Blackwell	Leader of Castle Point Borough Council	Castle Point Borough Council
Dame Rebecca Harris	Member of Parliament	Member of Parliament, Castle Point
Greg Myddelton (on behalf of Roger Hirst)	Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, Essex	Essex Police
Elaine De Can	Town Clerk	Canvey Town Council
Tracy Harris	CEO	CAVS
Peter Tassell	CEO, PYT Restaurants	PYT Restaurants
Derek Gray	CEO, Monaco Leisure	Monaco Leisure

LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

Amanda Parrott	Assistant Director of Climate and Growth	Castle Point Borough Council
Mark Spriggs	Economic Development and Regeneration Manager	Castle Point Borough Council
Katie Leney	Regeneration Officer	Castle Point Borough Council
Kate Wilde	Senior Communications Advisor	Castle Point Borough Council
Deborah Saunders	Executive Assistant	Castle Point Borough Council

Stuart Jarvis	Assistant Director, Environment	Castle Point Borough Council
EXTERNAL ATTENDEES		
Russell Dolton	Localities Lead	Essex County Council
Anthony Buston	Senior Transportation and Infrastructure Planner	Highways, ECC
Luke Hartley	Member of Parliament's team	Member of Parliament Office, Castle Point
Josh Brewster (representing Jenny Speller)	Senior Neighbourhood Health Manager	NHS Essex, ICB

Action	Meeting Date	Owner	Status
12-month Forward Plan and meetings schedule to be agreed.	17 th March 2026	MS/SB	Open. Meeting dates in diaries for 2026. Forward Plan is being worked on.
AP to discuss Knightswick leases with CPBC Asset Team and whether they are willing to bring conversations forward.	17 th April 2026	AP	Open. Due to staff changes, an update will be given at June's Board meeting.
Start planning launch event, agree a date and book a venue. Set up a Board sub group to support.	17 th April 2026	KL	Open. Thea is leading to set up a sub group. Date to be agreed at next meeting.
Bring back a high-level overview of Town Centre Improvements in May/June meetings.	17 th April 2026	AP/MS	Open.
Bring Desire Lines discussion to the next meeting to think of a bigger picture.	17 th April 2026	AP/MS	Open.
Commission a 4-year communications plan to manage long term message of legacy.	17 th April 2026	KW	Open.
To complete bio for Jenny Speller.	22 nd May 2026	KW	Open.
To add Town Centre improvements to June's agenda.	22 nd May 2026	MS	Open.
To share information on the Essex County Council 100-day plan, when received.	22 nd May 2026	AP	Open.
Sub-group for seafront. To be taken back to Board to discuss ideas and requirements.	22 nd May 2026	MS	Open.
To provide Board the specification at June's Board meeting.	22 nd May 2026	KW	Open.

ITEM	TITLE	LEAD
1.	Welcome and Apologies	SB
	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from AH, TB, JF, MW, LF, IB.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	SB
	No declaration of interest was declared.	
3.	Approval of previous meeting notes – Friday 17th April 2026	SB
	The notes of the meeting dated Friday 17 th April 2026 were agreed by Board members, as a true and accurate record.	
4.	Matters Arising and Action Tracker	SB
	Jenny Speller will be joining Pride in Place Board. KL to complete Bios. <u>Action Tracker</u> • Knightswick: there has been a change in the Estate Team, no update yet • Welcome to ECC, Highways • The launch event will be discussed during today's meeting • Voting: it was agreed by Board members, via email, to fund The Paddocks Wellbeing Hub, and not the stage • Town Centre improvements to be discussed at June's meeting • SB reiterated decisions to be made via email. Action: KL to complete bio for Jenny Speller. Action: MS to add Town Centre improvements to June's agenda.	KL
5.	Canvey wide Regeneration & Funding Streams	AP/MS
	• There have been no new funding streams available, and no progression on any regeneration projects • At June's Cabinet meeting, they will set out the governance community levy spending plan • In May 2023, charged community infrastructure levy of £400k received • Some alignment with themes of Pride in Place work • County Council has a 100-day plan, there are a few pots of money available, but nothing agreed. AP to share information once received. Action: AP to share information on the County Council 100-day plan, when received.	
6.	Canvey Lake	SJ
6.1	Stuart Jarvis, Assistant Director Environment, CPBC, attended the Board meeting to discuss and request funding for Canvey Lake. Key highlights: • The community has raised concerns with CPBC and ECC regarding the upkeep, water quality, and surrounding environment of Canvey Lake.	

	• A local contractor will be retained following the transfer of the lease to the Town Council • CPBC has invested £150k in water quality treatment and is seeking £500k match funding for Canvey lake from Pride in Place • De-silting the lake is a priority, alongside public education to improve understanding of how the lake functions, and how to protect wildlife • Safety and security measures are needed to address issues such as mopeds and drug-related activity in the park, working in partnership with the Police, including the potential installation of CCTV • Improvements to street lighting are required, with responsibility sitting with ECC • The playground is well used, providing an opportunity for CPBC to build on the work previously undertaken by the Town Council. Question and comments raised by attendees: SB, the Environment Agency does not see the lake as a community asset, more a water storage facility. SJ, both the Board and the Stakeholder Groups need to align. RH, the lake is a great asset, but degraded, poor quality. How much funding is required and how will it be spent? SJ, we are working with the contractor to improve water quality, currently aerating, ecology to enhance. £500k is required for desilting, and to go to procurement on education, to make residents aware of how to look after wildlife. Also, within the wider area of the lake, diversifying the wildlife e.g. bug farms. It has potential to involve RSPB, Wildlife Trust, Buglife. SJ, Anglian Water were proactive at recent meeting, possible funding. The Environment Agency will need convincing. AP, two schools back onto the lake, an opportunity as an educational asset. GM, Canvey Lake posters show people are proud of the lake, want to safeguard, protect and utilise. We need to communicate and engage with the community; show we are listening. The more people using the area, it will deter drug dealing GM, it's a potential area for park runs and cycling. SJ, maintenance needs and costs will become clearer over the year. A priority would be education. Action: Board to consider and confirm its commitment to progressing work on the lake, including the level of funding to be allocated and the specific areas the funding will support.	
6.2	Essex County Council – Highways	RD/TB

Russel Dolton and Anthony Buston, ECC, presented the Board with enhancing connectivity via Canvey Lake: Lakeside Path and Active Travel Improvements. Key highlights:

- The lake is fundamental, utilise the lake by improving the routes to make it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle between Benfleet Station and Canvey Island
- Reduce short car journeys on Canvey Island
- Healthier lifestyles by encouraging people to be more active, while improving safety, accessibility for all users, and better connecting local communities to key destinations including links beyond Essex for those travelling further afield
- Reviewed existing plans and previous feedback to understand the importance of the route and how it is currently used
- Assessed how safe, convenient and attractive the route is for walking and cycling
- Developed the design in line with national guidance, ensuring it is practical and deliverable within the local environment
- Route 13 is the preferred route, follows the existing cycle route alignment along the Canvey Lakeside path (approximately 1.1 miles). Attractive, off-road route away from traffic and follows good design standards for walking and cycling.

Key issues:

- parts of the route have specific drainage considerations
- the surface is in poor condition in places
- there is a narrow bridge which creates a constraint
- drainage considerations along different parts of the route.
- The project should be linked to future development and regeneration, particularly in relation to Canvey Island. For example, encouraging people to cycle from Benfleet Station and around the lake would demonstrate practical use. It is important to evidence demand, highlight community benefits, and show that key stakeholders are already engaged
- The overall cost is expected to be a minimum of £2 million, based on typical highway scheme expenses, with potential costs ranging between £2 million and £5 million. The most significant cost element is the replacement of the bridge, along with resurfacing works and the construction of new sections of path
- From a funding perspective, the project should aim to create a strong, measurable impact. It may be beneficial to scale the scheme appropriately, with the majority of funding sought from Active Travel England. Essex County Council (ECC) could contribute and potential additional funding. Securing match funding will strengthen the application and improve its overall score
- Across Essex, there are around 600 schemes, and the future introduction of new authorities (unitary arrangements) will influence how these are managed. Responsibility may pass to new authorities, but previous learning will be carried forward and refined. Work undertaken now will support a smoother transition under the new structure. Within Castle Point, 25 routes

were reviewed, with three prioritised over an 18-month period, this scheme is one of those identified routes.

Questions and comments raised by attendees:

How would this scheme score against other funding bids? TB, Active Travel England funding is primarily focused on cycling initiatives and forward-looking projects aimed at reducing car use. Therefore, the proposal needs to clearly align with these objectives.

Including investment in initiatives such as “pedal power” to actively promote cycling will strengthen the scheme and improve its scoring in funding applications.

There is also potential to incorporate a safety element through the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC), such as lighting or CCTV. Funding streams like the Safer Streets Fund could be accessed to support this. Demonstrating investment from multiple sources and clear stakeholder interest would strengthen the case, and a bid for Safer Streets funding could be pursued.

The route could be designed to run directly through the waterside, which is within our ownership. This would create opportunities for people to stop, with added features such as cycle racks. Funding could be used to deliver these facilities. This approach could also reduce overall costs, as it may avoid the need for additional crossings.

At the other end of the route (Route A), the path currently reaches the bridge and stops, so further work is needed to understand how it would connect and continue effectively.

In terms of delivery, once the concept is agreed, the next stage is feasibility, securing additional funding, including match funding. Feasibility studies can be completed relatively quickly, and an update could be provided within a year. As this is a relatively simple, off-road scheme, disruption should be minimal. However, checks with utility providers (e.g. for fibre optic cables) are required and can take time. The project is not expected to be construction ready within the next two years.

If the scheme is approved locally, but Active Travel England funding is not secured, they are not the only funding source. There are a few alternative funding opportunities that could still be pursued.

Action: Board to consider match funding to improve access to Canvey Island with a focus on enhancing walking/cycling routes, feasibility and drainage work.

7.	MHCLG Update	AP

	• A letter has been sent to the Secretary of State regarding the launch event, we are currently waiting for confirmation on dates, likely to be late September/October. • Memorandum of Understanding: confirmation of acceptance and receipt. Should receive the money next week.	
8.	Events	AP/MS
	Launch • We are bringing together a sub-group, Theo leading the work. No date has been confirmed yet, guidance is required on the most suitable location, whether that be the town centre, seafront, or an alternative venue • The event could be held in The Paddocks to highlight recent investment. Practical considerations such as parking, time of year, format, will need to be planned. Once a date is confirmed, these details can be explored in more depth. Seafront – Extending the season • AP Projects 6 and 10 (town centre and seafront) focus on securing short-term revenue funding to encourage greater use of these spaces. This includes exploring how to maximise the value of the seafront as an asset and attract more visitors. Funding for events will be key to increasing activity and, ideally, extending the visitor season along the seafront • DG, discussions are underway about extending the season, which typically runs from Easter to September, subject to weather conditions, by introducing weekend events over a six-week period. “Saturday Night Special” events, between 6pm and 9pm, aimed at families with children under 10 starts in a couple of weeks • SJ highlighted that pathways need to be improved to better connect to car parks, which are currently unlit. Solar lighting could be considered as a potential solution. During the winter months, when car parks are typically underused, there may also be an opportunity to repurpose these spaces for activities such as Christmas markets • Weatherproof solutions to avoid cancellation of events, e.g marquees. Action: Sub-group for seafront. To be taken back to Board to discuss ideas and requirements.	
9.	CYP Board	SB
	On Friday 8th May a launch event was held involving 35 children from both primary and secondary schools. Two secondary schools contributed 12 students, who took on a mentoring role, supporting the younger participants. Sophia, an 18-year-old sports apprentice, acted as Chair and helped coordinate the event. The groups were asked to consider what matters most to young people, with a focus on the lake and seafront. A budget of £5,000 has been allocated, and the group suggested ideas such as family activity days, links with the golf club, and activities focused on animals, the environment, and wildlife.	

	It is proposed that at June's Board meeting, a small number of representatives, including Sophia, present these ideas on behalf of the wider group. The aim is to better integrate young people into the Board, with provision included in the investment plan to support ongoing engagement and delivery of their ideas. Some initiatives will also be taken forward through schools and community partnerships. ECC, Highways colleagues, will engage with the group to discuss connectivity and routes, ensuring their perspectives help shape future planning. Involving young people could also strengthen future funding bids, with opportunities for them to attend meetings and provide feedback directly. The youngest participant was aged 6. Additional suggestions from the group included more dog-friendly cafés on Canvey, interest in a "Canvey Zoo," and greater use of existing facilities such as the splash park, which is currently only used for a limited part of the year.	
10.	Comms Update and Proposal	KW
	Kate Wild, Agency Senior Comms Advisor, updated the Board on Comms. Key highlights: • Feedback on communications is positive, with 135 followers on Facebook. A feature on the Board has been well received • The next steps include further development of the website, which is now in a stronger position with a new logo, Board photos, and key policies such as cookies and privacy. Future communications should focus on showcasing progress to the public through the website • There will be a need for additional budget to support communications activity. A specification will be developed for a four-year comms plan. The Board can review this and consider options at June's Board meeting • It is important to keep the public informed about progress and achievements, particularly through visible projects • Discussions with Lee Monk at Active Essex, indicated a comms marketing budget, with the opportunity to align communications and marketing efforts • If there are recommendations for agencies, or individuals with relevant experience, these can be considered. Once a specification is agreed, it can be shared via the business newsletter to invite quotes from local businesses. Action: KW to provide Board the specification at June's Board meeting.	
11.	Board Skills Audit	KW
	Kate Wild, Agency Senior Comms Advisor, updated Board members on the skills audit. Findings were: • Highest areas of strength: Governance, NFP, volunteering • Lowest areas: legal (covered by CPBC), big business/private sector experience, built environment • Skills in board. grants, commissioning, partnerships – need to maximum • Gaps: Solicitor, higher education	

	• External attendees and Local Authority could be invited to support to fill gaps, as required by the Board • Disability area was not highlighted in the audit summary.	
12.	Any Other Business	All
	Decisions/voting To make it a standard practice to make decisions / voting electronically, due to maintaining quoracy. Agreed by Board attendees to have time to think about the decision, not put under pressure. Dates of future meetings Attendees agreed to keep Pride in Place Board meetings on a Friday morning, as Rebecca's constituency. All monthly meetings will be in person, unless an additional meeting is required, which will be held on Teams.	All
	The next meeting will be held on Friday 26 June 2026 , at The Paddocks.	