



Eulogy for David Bateman



*Read by Councillor Brian P. Sandler
19th August 2009*

It is an honour for me to be asked by Sandra to give a eulogy of David Bateman who was a man of, and for, the people of Chigwell. As I stand here today, I want to pay tribute to David's character and to the significant contribution he has made not only to the local area but to the lives of those living in it.

David was, without a doubt, widely liked and respected by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He gained that respect by his kindness, loyalty and innate ability to appreciate the needs of others, which he never failed to recognise.

I have known David for 13 years and in all that time David has been committed to addressing important community issues. David was always willing to take on the task, whatever that may have been. He was very well known in the community for his concern about local matters and his longstanding and dedicated service to Epping Forest District Council was an important part of his life.

David was first elected to represent the Grange Hill Ward of the District Council in 1994. His popularity with the electors was very clear and he was re-elected again and again - in 1998, 2002, 2004 and 2008. David's popularity in the Council was also reflected and he was appointed Vice-Chairman of the District Council in 2003.

Five times elected Councillor and 15 years service overall, is a tremendous public record. During this time, David served tirelessly on a plethora of committees including: the Transportation Committee, the Resource Committee, the Housing Committee, the Joint Works Committee, the Area Plans Sub-Committee South, the Staff Appeals Panel, the Complaints Panel, the Public Services Monitoring Panel and the Housing Appeals Panel.

During his Terms of Office, David also represented the District Council on a wide range of outside organisations, including: the Cycle Forum, the Chigwell Local Safety Advisory Committee, the Police and Community Consultative Group and the Loughton Branch of the CAB.

Not only did David have a distinguished career, embracing many committees and campaigns, but he always made the time to try to solve the smallest of problems for anyone. He had a real feel for the community in which he lived and worked so tirelessly to represent. Indeed, David was passionate about the local area and assisted in securing significant improvements to the local environment.

He was one of the most down-to-earth, sympathetic people you could wish to meet.

David worked with great dedication and always tried to help people throughout his life. He was a very generous man and he was generous in his support for anybody who needed it. Nothing was too much trouble for him

David was a gentleman and a gentle man who always looked for the best in others and gave the best he had.

It only leaves me to say that David made a huge difference, and he leaves the Parish a better place than he found it.

He will be greatly missed by us all.

