

## **DAVID MILSTED**

It is unfortunate that David is not able to join us this morning to receive his Alderman award, but I would like to say a few words to thank him for 15 years of dedicated service to NDDC.

As a councillor, David was one of those rare people who could appreciate the difficulties the authority was facing, who would work tirelessly to address the issues and ensure that front line services continued, whilst still remaining true to his political beliefs. He was an extremely effective leader of the opposition who chaired the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an honest and open approach – and won the respect of every member of this council.

David, we thank you for your hard work and loyalty, and wish you well in your retirement.

## **BILL BATTY-SMITH**

Bill is the patriarch of this council and after 20 years has earned the right to step down from chairing the most difficult committee we have – Planning!! His advice and good counsel has stood us all in good stead, and on a personal level, he has kept me in line with a firm word - whilst always being there, on hand, to distil his wisdom and offer support. The council going forward will very much miss your expertise.

Thank you Bill for your unstinting loyalty to the district and to this council.

## **DEBORAH CRONEY**

Deborah and I were elected on the same day 12 years ago – both of us raw recruits! Deborah quickly settled in and it soon became apparent to everyone that she had the rare qualities of intelligence, steely determination, organisational skills and a capacity to get to the nub of the matter – whatever the issue. Here was a quiet force to be reckoned with! Fortunately for NDDC Deborah also has an attitude of total commitment – if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well, and this council has been the lucky recipient of her labour and dedication to a job well done.

As a council we tend not to bestow the honour of Alderman after only 12 years, but in Deborah's case, it was felt that her visionary and inspirational contribution had been so great that she should receive our highest award for services given. Thank you Deborah.

I would also like to thank her personally for all her help with our celebrations today. The balloons are a triumph!

## **VICTOR FOX**

Victor is another very longstanding member of this council and has contributed tremendously to its successes. Over the 20 years of his councillorship he has stepped up to represent many aspects of our work – culminating of course in being Chairmen of the council 2015 - 2017. The town of Sturminster Newton will feel your loss as their Dorset Council representative, as will we all. Victor, we wish you a peaceful and healthy retirement – you have earned it!

## **MICHAEL ROAKE**

Michael is a quiet man, but his 20 years of service to this council has not been a quiet affair. He has held many positions of responsibility and been a member of the cabinet since 2001, 5 years of which were deputy leader of the council. I think it's fair to say that without Michael's tenacity and commitment, the exemplary Dorset Waste Partnership programme would not exist. He holds strong opinions about many things, but his approach is always tempered by good manners and respect for another's point of view. He is a gentleman.

Michael, on behalf of the entire district – thank you for your determination to ‘make a difference’ you absolutely succeeded and we wish you well.