

Councillor Bill Batty Smith,

When you joined the Council, I was living on my farm with Horses and Goats working as a sculptor blissfully unaware that what I really wanted to do was spend my whole life in committee meetings. That was a lifetime ago Bill

Ever since I joined the Council Bill has been Chair of Planning that was a given Cllr Bill Batty Smith is Planning and that was never questioned, He has always been held in the highest regard by me and all who work with him.

I was on the Planning committee for a year and we used to have some fun because there were two David's, David Milsted and myself and it had become common place for David Milsted to speak first, well I had found something that I liked "Planning" and I had lots that I wanted to say.... on a good day some was even relevant.... Other times Bill would shut me up with a look or a word. When Bill asked for comments... I would put my hand up.... He would say David..... and David Milsted would start to speak Until Bill calmly said No the other David and that really annoyed our Lib Dem friend, who would posture and sigh heavily.

Bill has such a way of controlling a situation without being controlling as we all know Planning can be so contentious and when members of the public come to a meeting they are going to do their utmost to speak and I have witnessed some pretty outrageous situations where they try to be confrontational and even draw the Chairman into an argument but he would never rise to it. He would deal with it so calmly that you didn't even realise there had been an issue.

Bill has been a fine Ambassador for North Dorset District Council, a figure head for Planning, a true English gentleman that I greatly respect as a colleague but even more ... hold dear as a friend.

Bill you really do deserve this honour and not because you have been on North Dorset District Council for 20 years because any posterior can keep a seat warm. It is for all the hard work that you have done in that time for the people of North Dorset whilst representing this Council. I am truly honoured to know you and speak to this.

Well done mate!