

A man united with the people

GLOWING tributes were paid to the late Mick Lipper for his contribution to the political and sporting life of Limerick city by his colleagues, on the city council, at a specially convened meeting on Monday.

The Mayor, Alderman Tim Leddin, spoke about the late Mick Lipper's 25 year term on the council, his year as Mayor, and as a member of Dail Eireann.

"His one big trait was his care and concern for everybody which was the driving force in his life," said the Mayor.

He referred to his soccer playing days with Pike Rovers, Sligo Rovers, Transport, the League of Ireland, and his presidency of Limerick United, and said it was a "history

said he only really knew Mick Lipper when he joined the city council.

"He always made his point in a constructive manner," he said.

His election to the Dail in 1977, said Alderman O'Driscoll, was an acknowledgment of his great work for the city of Limerick.

Council

"It was a sad day in 1985 when he lost his seat on the city council. It was not for the want of trying," said Alderman O'Driscoll.

Cllr. John Quinn said he knew the late Mick Lipper on the sportsfield and as a public representative.

"He was a man who always made his point in a constructive manner."

Alderman Jim Kemmy described the late Mick Lipper as

advice."

Cllr. Paddy Madden said he found it a privilege to have served with Mick Lipper on the last council.

"He loved Limerick and the people of Limerick," he added.

Cllr. Ger Fahy, referring to Mick Lipper's sporting career, said he always found it a great experience to speak to him at a match.

"When he retired from the game he retained a great interest in local clubs and in particular Pike Rovers," he said.

"He will be sadly missed by the soccer community," he added.

Cllr. Tim O'Driscoll recalled Limerick playing Drumcondra in the Markets Field in 1958, and Mick Lipper scoring the only goal of the match, when Alan Kelly was the goal keeper.

Cllrs. John O'Connor and Kevin Kiely also associated

themselves with the votes of sympathy to the Lipper family.

Cllr. Jan O'Sullivan said that Mick Lipper's motive in politics was to help the less well off who would sadly miss him.

Cllr. Larry Cross said he knew Mick Lipper all his life, and referred to his great work for the city.

"When I went ahead of him in the 1985 city council count, he was the first man to congratulate me," said Cllr. Cross.

On behalf of the council staff, Mr. Donal O'Donoghue also paid tribute to Mick Lipper and said that he served the people of Limerick in a dedicated manner.

"I always found him to be a genuine, kind and sincere person."

He concluded by offering his condolences to his wife and family.



Mick Lipper

of a man united with the people."

It is a sad occasion, said the Mayor, to propose a vote of sympathy with his wife and family.

Cllr. Frank Prendergast said that himself and Mick Lipper grew up together.

"He played with St. Patrick's, and I played with Cloughaun," he said.

Referring to his political career, Cllr. Prendergast said that Mick Lipper who joined the Labour Party in 1961 "played an outstanding role in the city."

Concern

Speaking about his concern for the poor and underprivileged, Cllr. Prendergast said he would be best remembered for his courageous leadership in the housing of the people of the Simon Community.

"I never saw him do an unworthy act in politics," said Cllr. Prendergast.

"He was particularly good to St. John's Hospital," said Cllr. Prendergast.

On behalf of the Fianna Fail party on the council, Cllr. Jack Bourke said his first memory of the late Mick Lipper was an FAI Cup final between Sligo and a Cork team in 1950.

"Cork were leading by 3-nil, and the chant went up to move up Lipper," said Cllr. Bourke.

"The move was made and within three minutes Lipper scored two goals. Sligo did not get the draw that day but I will never forget the contribution of Mick Lipper."

During their 17 years together on the city council, Cllr. Bourke said he never knew Mick Lipper to be in bad humour.

"He was always prepared to say something to take the sting out of an argument," added Cllr. Bourke.

He described Mick Lipper as a man dedicated to the people of Limerick, and said he did not get the reward he deserved when he lost his seat.

Alderman Gus O'Driscoll

a "natural athlete."

He recalled his first entry on to the council when he secured the 17th seat just ahead of Paddy Kiely.

"The late Mick Lipper had a natural intelligence, and humanity which he learned in the university of life," said Alderman Kemmy.

"I learned a lot from the man," he added.

Referring to the loss of his city council seat, Alderman Kemmy said he did not deserve to lose his seat.

"There should have been a residue of support for him, in honour of all the work he did for the city," he said.

Cllr. Win Harrington said she knew the late Mick Lipper as a man who did not "harbour animosity."

"He will be sadly missed," she added.

Cllr. Joe Harrington said he would remember Mick Lipper for his stand on the housing of the people of the Simon Community.

"He surprised me at the time on the stand he took on that issue," he said.

Senator Pat Kennedy said it had been a privilege to work with the late Mick Lipper on the city council for 18 years.

Special

"He was an outstanding public representative, and I was fortunate to have succeeded him as Mayor," he said.

"He carved out a special place for himself in the way he looked after the health issues of the poorer people," he added.

Referring to his term in Dail Eireann, Senator Kennedy said he made an outstanding contribution, one that the city and his family could be proud of.

"When he moved from the national scene, there was hardly an usher in the Dail who did not ask about him," added Senator Kennedy.

Cllr. Bobby Byrne described the late Mick Lipper as a "great man to give great

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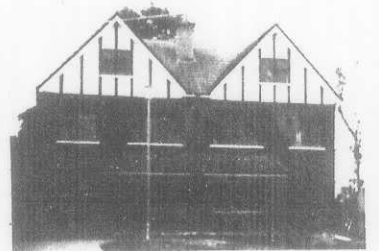
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