



I am very sorry to hear the of the death of Councillor Sean Smith. He has borne his long illness stoically, continuing his dedicated service on Cavan County Council, most recently joining the Corporate Policy Group Meeting on Thursday 5th January and the Monthly Meeting on Monday 9th January online.

Sean was first elected to Cavan County Council in 1979. He worked closely with his father, the late John Smith, in the years prior to that and continued his father's record of public service continuously since that time. He served as Cathaoirleach on two separate occasions over that time.

Not only has he given extraordinary service to his community and the county over those years, he also represented County Cavan on many bodies including the Association of County and City Councils and the previous General Council, LAMA, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly, and most recently on the Cavan Monaghan ETB. He was a passionate advocate for local education, particularly for St. Mogue's College, Bawnboy and St. Bricin's College, Belturbet.

I have known Sean all of my life, my own father having served on the Council with him from 1985. I always valued and respected his wise judgement, clear thinking, insight, and practical approach.

He brought his years of experience, determination, and good humour to bear on his work on behalf of his constituents and communities around the County. He never shied from debate and was always proudly a faithful spokesperson for our Fianna Fáil Party.

He was particularly strong advocate on agricultural issues, being a very hard working and progressive farmer. His commitment to farming interests and community was best exemplified in his work on securing the re-opening of the Ballinamore-Ballyconnell Canal, now the Shannon-Erne Waterway, and working with landowners to ensure that this would not negatively impact their farms.

I offer my sincere condolences to Ann, Eimear, Áine, Kilian, and Conor, their spouses and fiancée, his grandchildren, of whom he was especially proud, and wider family, his brothers and sister, especially his brother, Deputy Brendan.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasail.

Councillor John Paul Feeley, Cathaoirleach, Cavan County Council