

Tributes to a much 'loved colleague'

TRIBUTES to Cllr Culbert came pouring this week. **The leader of Fianna Fáil, Micheál Martin** said on behalf of the party he wanted to pay tribute to a much loved colleague and well respected community activist.

"Tadhg was a valued and active member of the Fianna Fáil organisation in Letterkenny. He was well liked and respected across the political divide. He was deeply involved in his community and will be remembered for his strong and unwavering commitment to the people he was elected to represent," said Deputy Martin.

The Mayor of Letterkenny, Cllr Dessie Larkin, said Cllr Culbert's passing was almost surreal.

"I know even up to last week he was still making representations on behalf of people in the town. Although he was a native of Limerick Junction, he was an adopted Letterkenny man," Cllr Larkin said.

"He was the type of man who met things head on and this is how he dealt with his illness. He never let it get him down. It is so sad to see a man cut down in the prime of his life. Tadhg, gave everything in his service to the people of Letterkenny and he always had a smile and a joke," he added.

Labour Senator Jimmy Harte said he had recently visited "Tadhg" in hospital in Dublin and he'd been looking forward to running for election next year.

"He was always enthusiastic and a hard working councillor. He will be missed by his family and the public who knew him as a councillor and a popular member of the An Post staff in Letterkenny.

"The Town Council has lost a valuable member and his family has lost a fine and well respected man," he said.

Mr John Watson, President of Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce said over the years Tadhg had been supportive of Letterkenny Chamber and the entire business community of Letterkenny.

"He was a pleasure to work with and always had the interests of Letterkenny at the forefront of his mind.

"His friendly smile and sunny nature were infectious and he always had a helpful word of encouragement. As a Councillor and during his time as Mayor he was committed to the town of Letterkenny and wanted to see it thrive. He will be sadly missed by Letterkenny Chamber," Mr Watson said.

Cllr Claran Brogan, said he was very

proud of the fact that he had encouraged Cllr Culbert to run for office in 2009 when he was re-elected to Letterkenny Town Council.

"It meant so much to him and he was honoured to be Mayor of Letterkenny again," he said.

"He would have been 40 years here in Letterkenny on May 1 and loved the town and its people. Tadhg was a very caring and for us it is very sad to lose a colleague and friend in the prime of his life," he added.

St Eunan's GAA club said it has lost a 'great friend'

"Though a native of Tipperary, Tadhg was a Letterkenny man through and through. He first joined St. Eunan's as hurling player in the 70's.

"He immersed himself in Letterkenny life, marrying Hilda Flood and becoming a long serving member of Letterkenny Town Council. He was a passionate follower of first Neil Blaney before becoming a great friend, supporter and ally to Dr. James McDaid and Fianna Fáil.

"Over the years he retained a keen interest in sport, in particular Tipperary hurling, St. Eunan's GAA club, Letterkenny Rovers and the Irish football team. Tadhg was always a generous contributor to St. Eunan's GAA club from his council bursaries and his unwavering support, and that of his colleagues on Letterkenny Town council in our recent Boundary dispute will long be remembered by our club.

"Tadhg was known to enjoy a pint and was a regular in Blake's Bar, McClafferty's, The Orchard and the Central where there was always a good story and some good, honest advice to be had.

Local Fine Gael Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh, said although not completely unexpected news of Cllr Culbert's death still came as a huge shock.

"He was a council colleague who was well liked and respected. Tadhg Culbert loved being a councillor, loved representing his community, and was deeply involved in so many aspects of life in Letterkenny," he said.

Independent Cllr Tom Crossan, said Tadhg Culbert was a good friend.

"He will be a big loss to the town and the council. Tadhg was a great worker and was highly regarded by people around the town," Cllr Crossan.

"The large crowd at the removal from the Donegal Hospice reflected the esteem in which he was held," Cllr Crossan added.