

ROSEMARY NAISH STATEMENT

“I am speaking as chair of the B&NES Avon Local Councils Association, known as ALCA. There are 51 Town & Parish councils within B&NES, representing 52% of the electorate and 50 of those 51 town & parish councils belong to ALCA.

Town & parish councils are responsible for street sweeping, street lights, parks, cemeteries and swimming pools among other things. All of our town & parish councillors are unpaid. We have been working together with council officers on an updated Parish Charter, (which will come before you later in the year) which we hope will increase the effectiveness of our joint working to serve the residents of B&NES.

This evening you are asked, in item 8 on the agenda, to renew the terms of reference for the Parishes Liaison meeting. I am here to tell you that to my members the Parishes Liaison meeting is the most important joint meeting we have with B&NES elected members and officers, more so than the Connecting Communities Forums, so I hope you will renew the terms of reference without change, until the charter work is completed. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you.”