

**Ashley Easton & Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Partnership**

Today we are attending a meeting of our Neighbourhood *Partnership* to make decisions along with our councillors that we hope will improve the daily lives of everyone in the area.

We understand entirely the legal requirement for the elected members to make the formal decisions on any matters that involve Council resources, however we fail to see why this part of the meeting had to be designated as the “Neighbourhood Committee”. This, in our opinion, risks undermining the importance of the discussion and decision-making undertaken during the first half of the meeting by implying that some other body has a greater say over these matters than the partnership. It is precisely our commitment to working *in partnership* with the council that has led us to the conclusion that not only is it unnecessary to designate the councillor section of the meeting as a ‘Neighbourhood Committee’, but it is actually damaging the principle of partnership working.

Maryanne and Dom