North Somerset

Personal Details:

Name: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Wraxall & Failand

Electoral Equality and Representation
The proposal aims to improve electoral equality, but the report's projections suggest moving The Elms into Nailsea may weaken residents' representation.
• Nailsea is forecast to grow by 6% by 2031, while Long Ashton is projected to be 8% below average.
• Keeping The Elms in Long Ashton would mean fewer electors per councillor, potentially giving residents more effective representation.
It is therefore unclear how moving The Elms into Nailsea would improve electoral equality or representation.
Community Identity and Local Wishes
Moving The Elms into an urban Nailsea ward would conflict with residents' clearly expressed wish to remain in Wraxall & Failand Parish and Long Ashton ward, as reflected in the Community Governance Review.
The Elms is closely integrated into Wraxall & Failand through parish initiatives, All Saints Church and local groups such as Wraxall WI.
These links show a strong community identity. Although The Elms is described as more urban than rural, identity should not rest on housing style or density; diversity strengthens the parish.
Retaining The Elms in Wraxall & Failand Parish and Long Ashton ward would reflect residents' wishes and preserve their social, cultural and civic links.

Effective and Convenient Local Government
The current arrangements work well: The Elms is represented through Wraxall & Failand Parish Council, remains part of Long Ashton ward, and

uses familiar local networks to address issues.
By contrast, the proposed arrangements for Wraxall & Failand Parish would not promote effective and convenient local government. They would instead risk creating unnecessary complexity and confusion.
In particular, separating The Elms from Long Ashton while leaving it within the parish would:
• create confusion over representation;
• weaken the alignment between parish and unitary council representation; and
• add administrative and communication burdens for Wraxall & Failand Parish Council, whose councillors serve voluntarily.
Where arrangements work well, change needs clear justification. Here, the benefits do not appear to outweigh the disruption. Retaining The Elms in Long Ashton ward would better support local government and preserve its strong links with Wraxall & Failand Parish.

Attached Documents:

None attached