North Somerset

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Comment text:

Related subject: Wraxall and Failand

I respectively oppose the proposal to move Wraxall and Failand into a Nailsea ward because it does not meet the Boundary Commission’s three statutory criteria...

1. Electoral Equality:
Equalising elector numbers does not require merging fundamentally different communities. Wraxall and Failand can achieve fair representation without being absorbed into a much larger urban ward. Alternative configurations exist that maintain electoral balance without undermining community coherence.

2. Community Identity:
Wraxall and Failand have a distinct rural, village?based identity. Residents naturally look toward Long Ashton, Bristol, and neighbouring villages for services, schools, healthcare, and transport. Nailsea is not our community hub. Combining these areas would not reflect genuine community identity or lived patterns of daily life.

3. Effective and Convenient Local Government:
Nailsea’s much larger population would dominate any combined ward, leaving Wraxall and Failand with weaker representation. Rural issues would inevitably be overshadowed by urban priorities, reducing the effectiveness of local government for our area.

In Conclusion:
For all these reasons, the proposal to merge Wraxall and Failand into a Nailsea ward simply does not meet the Commission’s own criteria. It weakens electoral fairness, misrepresents our community identity, and would deliver less effective local government by subsuming a small rural area into a much larger urban centre. The only outcome that genuinely protects representation, identity, and good governance is for Wraxall and Failand to remain separate from Nailsea.

Attached Documents:

None attached