North Somerset

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Comment text:

Related subject: Wraxall and Failand

I am writing to submit my objections to the proposed boundary change that would absorb The Elms Estate into Nailsea Town Council. The Elms Estate must remain within Wraxall and Failand Parish for the following reasons:

1. Disproportionate Financial impact on Residents:
Moving to Nailsea will impose an immediate, unjustified increase in the council tax precept for Elms residents. Removing this population base will leave the remaining Wraxall and Failand residents to cover fixed parish operational costs, driving up taxes for rural villagers.

2. Loss of Vital Green Belt
The estate and its surrounding areas are currently safeguarded under the stringent policies of the Wraxall and Failand Neighbourhood Plan which prioritises green infrastructure and agricultural preservation. Because Nailsea lacks an equivalent Neighbourhood Plan, absorption strips away these protections, opening up the strategic gap to the north and northeast for large-scale housing developments. Unchecked expansion would severely threaten biodiversity in the Yeo Valley and potentially lead to excessive commuter traffic through fragile rural communities.

3. Defiance of Clear Democratic Consensus
Local consultations show that 89% of polled residents explicitly voted to reject joining Nailsea, mirroring historical precedents like the 2009 resident-led boundary petition. Overturning the boundary ignores the democratic voice of the community and directly contradicts the official recommendation by the North Somerset Council Planning and Regulatory Committee to retain the existing parish boundaries.

4. Threat to Parish Council Viability
Stripping The Elms from the parish permanently depletes its population base, actively undermining the financial and functional viability of Wraxall and Failand Parish Council. Residents risk losing dedicated, rural-focused representation by being absorbed into a much larger, urban-centric town council structure where their specific local needs will be deprioritised.

In conclusion, the proposed boundary change offers no tangible benefit to the community, introduces financial penalties, and dismantles vital environmental protections. I urge the council to respect the democratic consensus and maintain the current boundary line.

Attached Documents:

None attached