North Somerset

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Comment text:

Related subject: Wraxall & Failand

I object in the strongest possible terms to the proposal to put the Elms where I live into Nailsea for electoral or indeed any other purpose, as the vast majority of us have stated every time Nailsea Town Council has repeated its attempted land grab. Each time we have to respond we become increasingly angry and at this point I am fuming!

I entirely agree with everything our parish council states in its literature about this.

Electoral equality: it is irrational to put the Elms into Nailsea as this takes away 8% Long Ashton voters but adds 6% to Nailsea. It is only proposed by NTC with the long term aim of taking our Council Tax local payment from our parish council. This failed recently so they are trying this instead. It is not to do with electoral equality at all. Far from it.

Reflecting community identity: this proposal is against the very strongly expressed desire of The Elms folk to stay with W&F see Parish Consultation and Community Governance Review. The draft recommendation simply ignores these and would go directly against them which is irrational.

We are 30 seconds walk from fields. Whereas Nailsea centre and or public transport is 15 mins at least. We go to Nailsea once a week maximum. More like fortnightly. I work in Bristol and Winscombe. I don’t go through Nailsea at all. We shop in Bristol, Winscombe, Backwell Wraxall and other places. Nailsea is food shop only. My husband works at home or far afield mainly London. This is typical in The Elms, a lot move here for

work but it is rarely work nearby. We feel like villagers not townsfolk as we might be near Nailseas edge but we are no closer than people in Tickenham or Backwell and have to drive everywhere.

There won't be more houses beyond us as it is flood plain. We will remain a rural area with the relative isolation that entails and which our parish council understands. Nailsea has no interest or understanding of that.

We moved out of Bristol to be in a village. I grew up in Seend in Wiltshire so it was important to me. To be gobbled up by greedy Nailsea which as a Council self evidently wants nothing more than more money at the expense of its neighbours is very upsetting and goes against our identity as villagers. It is also directly threatening the very existence of our parish council which if the reorganisation Nailsea wants by the back door goes ahead will leave it without enough money or indeed councillors (some live in the Elms!!) to function.

Effective and convenient local government: Nailsea meddling would result in short term confusion and very costly muddle which they clearly don't mind as the main aim of this is a land and money grab. Indeed it is grossly and manifestly unfair for our councillor to report to Nailsea when it has been recently emphatically and overwhelmingly firmly decided we pay our local part of council tax to the parish council! How are we to hold them to account without a councillor? It is absurd. It would also create delay confusion and lots of needless inefficiencies as they will all have to liaise.

If there was a governance issue to be fixed I could understand. But there isn't. Our two councillors are great! As is the parish council.

Indeed given the resistance the Elms has shown to Nailsea for its aggressive and underhand tactics I anticipate we will be punished by being totally ignored if Nailsea is allowed to get away with this. I am very worried about this indeed. There will be all sorts of problems. Overall it makes a clear simple governance into a hopelessly inefficient and inept situation. It is totally the wrong thing to do and is as such irrational.

This is at least the 3rd time we have been asked if we want to be part of Nailsea. We don't. It is getting tiresome to keep having to state the obvious as we resist Nailseas transparent greed but make no mistake I for one will keep up the arguments against them for as long as necessary. I am not one to make a fuss usually but this is so wrong on all levels that even I have to speak out.

Please please please leave us with Long Ashton, Wraxall & Failand where we want to be and feel we belong.

Message direct to Nailsea Town Council: please now leave us be! We do not want your involvement here thank you.

Attached Documents:

None attached