North Somerset

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Comment text:

I strongly oppose the proposal to move the Elms from Long Ashton into Nailsea Golden Valley.

The LGBCE says its main aim is to improve electoral equality, but the evidence in its own draft proposals does not show that moving the Elms achieves this. Instead of solving any imbalance, it appears to simply move it around.

The Commission itself acknowledges that transferring the Elms into Nailsea creates knock-on problems that then require further boundary changes within Nailsea to maintain electoral equality. For example, the Ash Hayes Road area is proposed to be moved into Nailsea Youngwood to compensate. That suggests the transfer creates difficulties rather than resolving them.

The figures also show how finely balanced and potentially unstable these arrangements are. Paragraph 55 notes that moving the Elms into Youngwood instead would have resulted in a 28% electoral variance by 2031. This highlights how disruptive the transfer of the Elms is to the overall balance of representation in Nailsea.

Even after the proposed changes, the 2031 forecasts still show significant variances across Nailsea’s wards. The figures do not demonstrate a meaningful improvement in electoral equality across the area. They simply redistribute elector numbers while leaving Long Ashton notably below the average.

A more sensible solution would be to keep the Elms within Long Ashton and rebalance elector numbers within Nailsea’s four wards instead. That

would address electoral equality directly without removing the Elms from its existing ward or disrupting established community links. The proposal suggests that including the Elms in Nailsea Golden Valley would best reflect the area’s urban character and links into Nailsea. I, however, feel exactly the opposite: I moved to the Elms because I liked its rural character and links into the countryside of Wraxall and Long Ashton where I go each day to work.

Moving the Elms into a Nailsea ward creates unnecessary boundary changes, fails to deliver a clear improvement in electoral equality, and weakens Long Ashton’s representation. For those reasons, I do not support the proposal and believe the Elms should remain in Long Ashton.

Attached Documents:

None attached