North Somerset

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Related subject: All

North Somerset has put out its draft ward boundary recommendations, and after reading through them properly, I don’t think these proposals should go ahead as they stand.

They keep saying they’re following the rules on “community identity”, but then ignore the actual evidence from the people who live here.

Parish councils, Neighbourhood Plans, CGR consultations — all of that gets pushed aside, and replaced with what they “observed” on a quick site visit.

You can’t judge community identity from driving through an estate.

It comes from how the parish works, the groups people belong to, the services they use, and the way the area has been planned and governed over years.

A good example is the Elms.
It sits inside Wraxall & Failand Parish, which has a clear rural identity and parish?wide activity.

The Commission even acknowledges that.

Then they say “relatively few points” relate specifically to the Elms, as if the Elms isn’t part of the parish it legally belongs to.

That’s not how communities work.

To force the Elms into Nailsea, they’ve had to move Ash Hayes Road, adjust Youngwood, shift properties between West End and Yeo, and avoid splitting Youngwood Lane.

If a boundary needs four separate fixes just to make the numbers look tidy, it’s not a coherent plan.

It’s a chain reaction caused by one bad decision.

They also reject public suggestions in Portishead because they would “produce poor electoral equality”, but then accept variances of +10%, +6%, +4% and –6% in Nailsea.

Completely inconsistent.

Across the whole document, the pattern is the same: numbers first, community identity second.

That’s the wrong way round.
These boundaries will last decades, and they should reflect how communities actually function — not just what fits a spreadsheet.

Anyone who wants to read the draft recommendations or respond to the consultation can do so on the LGBCE website. Always worth checking the details yourself.

This post is my own opinion based on reading the draft recommendations.

Some details may need checking against the official documents, so please confirm anything important directly with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Attached Documents:

None attached