North Somerset

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Wraxall/Nailsea

The Elms
Moving The Elms into Golden Valley ward from Long Ashton Ward would mean two wards would have between -6% and -8% less electors per councillor compared to the national average. Leaving The Elms in Long Ashton ward would just leave the Golden Valley ward below the national average which could be remedied by moving the other Nailsea wards boundaries as they are 10%, 6% and 4% above the national average. As your proposals stand, there would be well above the 300 electorate tolerance per councillor between the three remaining Nailsea wards and Long Ashton and Golden Valley.
I have lived on The Elms for 28 years and have never ‘identified’ with living in an urban area or within Nailsea Town. The residents of The Elms have always overwhelming said that we identify as being part of the rural Wraxall community and definitely do not identify as being part of a town or have strong links with Nailsea (please refer to the recent Parish Council consultation and the Community Governance Review). The character of the housing is unique (no other development like it in Nailsea) as is its location within the rural boundary of Wraxall and Failand Parish Council and the Long Ashton ward. I can walk out of my front door and be in open fields in 20 seconds - hardly urban, but it would take me longer than 20 mins to actually reach the town centre. If I need a convenience store, I would visit Tout’s garage in Wraxall which is closer than the town centre. I live in a rural area and not in a town, that is why I moved here. By moving The Elms to within Golden Valley ward you would not be reflecting this ‘community’s’ identity. We already have an easily identifiable boundary which has been used for over a century and by moving the boundary you will be making us move from a rural community to an urban ward against our wishes.
You would also create a very confusing situation for us regarding district and parish governance, elections and representation. Wraxall and Failand Parish Council, for electoral purposes, would be split over two wards meaning we would require three district councillors to work together

which is neither proficient nor practical. At the moment we are represented by two councillors in the Long Ashton ward (who is more aligned with W&FPC and keeping the greenbelt that surrounds us) by moving us we would only have one Councillor. What I am extremely concerned about is that The Elms will essentially have no voice or representation on local matters if the boundary is moved. Golden Valley ward's majority electorate live in Nailsea so their councillor will be more aligned with looking after Nailsea Town interests rather than W&FPC. What happens if there is a conflict of interest between the Long Ashton and Golden Valley wards which would have a significant impact on us? Our local councillor will be more interested in representing his majority electorate interests than ours essentially leaving us with no one to represent us. Moving The Elms into the Golden Valley ward certainly would not support effective and convenient local government as it would make local government more complex, we would loose our identity and, effectively, have no representation at a council level!

Attached Documents:

None attached