North Somerset

Personal Details:

Name: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Para 56 - Draft Recommendation - Including the Elms area of Wraxall & Failand within a Nailsea ward.

1. Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents is a distortion, as it ignores the future diminishing of the Long Ashton Ward, which means that by remaining in the Long Ashton Ward residents of the Elms would receive more effective representation per councillor and thereby maintain electoral equality.
2. Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity must mean that the area of the Elms must remain as Wraxall & Failand Parish given the 90% vote results of the recent Parish Consultation, otherwise the proposed change would demonstrate that consultation can be overridden or ignored at will, which is hardly a democratic act. As a resident we have chosen to live in a rural environment.
3. The suggestion that the proposal would provide arrangements that support effective and convenient local government is hardly accurate when representation would reside with a Councillor who by designation has a greater interest in Nailsea. In addition, and whilst there is much emphasis placed on improving electoral equality, the result would be that the Elms had only one Nailsea Ward Councillor as opposed to the current two Long Ashton Ward Councillors.
The assumption that the Elms is more aligned to Nailsea than Wraxall & Failand is somewhat skewed given that the income/work to pay for council tax, for most residents, is derived from outside the area - probably Bristol. On that basis, using the LGBCE's logic would suggest an alignment to Bristol.
4. The issues put forward by the LGBCE have been constructed entirely as a technical electoral argument (despite some of its inaccuracies) to suit the objective of an obvious 'land grab'. It completely ignores the environmental living impact which the change would have. In principle these are:
a. to change the area from rural to urban at a time when it is imperative to protect our rural areas from Urban Creep,

b. to reduce income to Wraxall & Failand Parish, thereby increasing the the required revenue on the remaining Parish occupants.

Attached Documents:

None attached