

THE ELMS (YOUR COMMUNITY) IS UNDER THREAT

WARD BOUNDARY CONSULTATION

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED YET AGAIN!

Dear Residents,

A new review of the 35 Ward boundaries of North Somerset Council has been undertaken in April 2026, by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). Whilst Wraxall & Failand Parish is currently represented by our two Long Ashton District Councillors and lies entirely within the Long Ashton Ward, the LGBCE seeks to change this. Their recently published report states the following: ***“We received a number of submissions commenting on ward boundaries for Nailsea, including from Nailsea Town Council, Councillor Bird and members of the public. Nailsea Town Council stated the importance of ensuring that warding arrangements continue to secure good electoral equality in light of recent and planned housing development”*** and recommends that:

Para 56 - Draft Recommendation: Including the Elms area of Wraxall & Failand within a Nailsea ward best meets the statutory criteria, reflecting the area’s urban character and links into Nailsea... with clear, recognisable boundaries.

Do you support the Boundary Commissions’ Draft Recommendation to change the Ward Boundaries?

Wraxall & Failand Parish Council is voting:
NO – The Ward boundary should remain as it is, with the Elms areas staying in Wraxall & Failand within the Long Ashton Ward
Will you join us?

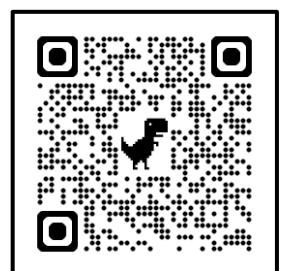
The Consultation is **NOT** over:
Please raise a Comment!
The Final Deadline is
Monday 6th July 2026

Whilst the final decision is yet to be made, taking into consideration the LGBCE recommendation, **it is very difficult to object against the LGBCE once the Final Report is issued**. Therefore, **it cannot be emphasised enough that your support is crucial to ensure that the Elms stay within the Long Ashton Ward and remain part of Wraxall & Failand Parish!** Do not rely on your previous response, or your fellow residents – make your voice heard!

All Residents are strongly encouraged to complete the Public Consultation on the LGBCE website (10 minutes) by either:

- Scanning the QR code on the right
- Visiting: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-somerset/feedback>

Top Tip: Scroll past the map for the feedback form. Please use the “share your views” comment box to express your support for the Elms to remain within the Long Ashton Ward and ensure that all your reasons refer to the three Considerations used by the LGBCE listed below:



Comment Now!

LGBCE Considerations are:

- **To improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each Councillor has.**
- **To ensure that the recommendations reflect community identity.**
- **To provide recommendations that support effective and convenient local government.**

**Please Support and Save the Identity of the Elms and the Future of
Wraxall & Failand Parish!**

See Overleaf for more information →

WRAXALL AND FAILAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Read the Full LGBCE Report Here:

https://www.lgbce.org.uk/sites/default/files/2026-04/north_somerset_draft_recommendations_full_report.pdf

See all the Proposal Information on the LGBCE Website by visiting the QR code here OR:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-somerset>



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Background: The **transfer of The Elms** from Long Ashton Ward to Nailsea Golden Valley Ward is an **existential crisis to our Parish identity, equality of representation and adds significantly more hinderance in effective local government**. The Draft Report does not appear to give suitable consideration of these factors, the results of the Wraxall & Failand Parish Council consultation, nor the recent Community Governance Review (CGR). It also sets a dangerous precedent, that would on the surface appear to make the Elms more aligned to Nailsea Town and encouraging any future bid to seize the Elms via a Parish/Town boundary change and ultimately question the viability of Wraxall & Failand Parish Council. **If the ward changes recommended by LGBCE go ahead, Parish/ Town boundary change will be the last remaining obstacle before the Elms becomes subsumed by Nailsea Town.**

If you feel that the Draft Recommendations do NOT strike the best balance between the below three considerations, you must say so and explain why not!

LGBCE'S COMMENT	EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY
<i>"Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents."</i>	The Draft Recommendation goes directly against the principle of equality and harms our electoral equality by widening the number of electors that each Councillor has against the average. Appendix A of the Report: Row 13 shows that moving the Elms into Nailsea Golden Valley would result in 3,389 electors per councillor by 2031. At the same time, Row 12 illustrates that Long Ashton Ward would have 3,307 electors per councillor by 2031. Therefore, if residents of the Elms were to remain in Long Ashton Ward, they would receive more effective representation and the redistribution of Nailsea electors within the four Nailsea Wards would result in improved electoral equality.
<i>"Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity."</i>	The Draft Recommendation adjustments adversely affect local community identity. Community Identity: The residents of the Elms have already confirmed their identity is more aligned with Wraxall & Failand Parish and not Nailsea. The LGBCE has not considered the evidence of the recent Parish Consultation whereby 90% of the Elms (309 votes received) identify as part of the Wraxall & Failand community. Transferring the Elms from Long Ashton Ward into Nailsea Ward would split the Wraxall & Failand Parish and push a rural community into an urban ward against their wishes, fracturing local ties. Community Governance Review: The LGBCE have not adequately considered the actual results and response to the Community Governance Review. The CGR also had the same mandate to ensure that community governance within the District Area reflects the identities and interests of the local community. Specifically, the LGBCE have not considered that the original Draft Recommendation (also proposed by Nailsea Town Council) was completely overturned following an overwhelming public response. The Final recommendation for the Elms was to remain in the Wraxall & Failand Parish – thus cementing its identity as Wraxall & Failand as implemented in the North Somerset Council's (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2026. The LGBCE Draft Recommendation would now seek to counteract this Order, with no credible change in circumstances and create two competing policies within North Somerset Council – and thus more conflict in later years with subsequent Boundary Reviews. Community Activities and Connections: The community identity of the Elms residents extends significantly further into Wraxall & Failand Parish than geographical proximity. Some residents of the Elms are members of the All Saints Church in Wraxall and participate in Wraxall & Failand Clubs and Societies, including : Failand Society, Failander's Club, Failand & Portbury Cricket Club and Failand Table Tennis Club. Several residents have moved away from urban areas to be in the rural environment of Wraxall & Failand and are very keen to maintain the Green Belt to the north and east of the Elms.
<i>"Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government."</i>	The Draft Recommendation proposed by LGBCE would force the Wraxall & Failand Parish from a unitary Ward into a dual Ward boundary. Adding unnecessary confusion: The proposed change would create confusion for Residents on Parish and District governance, elections and representation. The Elms would be represented by Nailsea Golden Valley Ward Councillor, who is more aligned to the wider majority interest of Nailsea, than the Councillors of Long Ashton Ward. The current unitary approach means the Councillors are directly responsible and aligned with the interests of the electors of Wraxall & Failand Parish. Diluting Governance: The proposed recommendation would reduce governance, by providing The Elms with only one Nailsea Ward Councillor representation, as opposed to the current representation by two Long Ashton Ward Councillors. Adding Complexity: Local parish governance would become more complex, requiring coordination across three district councillors. Compared with the current unitary arrangement, this would be neither effective nor convenient. The existing governance structure is well established and effective; thus, in the absence of any significant change in circumstances, that continuity should carry substantial weight.