



Wraxall & Failand Parish Council

Key Points for the Commission to consider in respect of North Somerset Electoral Review

History

- The parish included the chapelries of Nailsea and Flax Bourton until 1811.¹
- Same parish boundary since 1818.
- Secular Parish Council from 1894.
- From 1894 to 1974 the parish was part of the Long Ashton Rural District in the county of Somerset.²
- Between 1 April 1974 and 1 April 1996, the parish was part of the Woodspring district of the county of Avon.²
- After 1996 the parish was part of the 'Wraxall & Long Ashton' ward in North Somerset.
- The Tyntesfield estate is at the centre of the parish. Historically, much of the surrounding farmland was part of the estate. After the death of the second Baron Wraxall in 2001, the most of the estate at that time was purchased by the National Trust and the Belmont Estate.
- Residents from across the parish contributed to the Parish Plan³ between 2007 and 2009.
- the Wraxall & Failand Neighbourhood Plan⁴ was a large task undertaken by a steering committee that including people from the parish and was led by Parish Council. It was ratified by North Somerset Council on 12 November 2024. It forms part of the Development Plan and will be used to help guide development proposals within the parish.

Natural or constructed features which should be used as boundaries

- Tickenham / upper Wraxall / Failand Ridge running east-west to the north
- M5 motorway acts as a boundary on a North East / South West axis further north
- Access constrained by railway further south – main line to the West Country

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wraxall,_Somerset

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wraxall_and_Failand

³ <https://www.wraxallandfailand-pc.gov.uk/about-the-council/parish-plan>

⁴ <https://www.wraxallandfailand-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

Road links

- Main routes run east-west, the main commuter routes to Bristol:
 - B3128, the 'Upper Road' running through the parish along the Failand Ridge with bus services to Bristol and Clevedon (X6 - stopping in Failand).
 - B3130, the 'Lower Road' through Wraxall bordering Land Yeo river valley with bus services, from Bristol to Nailsea (X9) and Clevedon (X7) both via Long Ashton.
- only narrow lanes run north-south, with weight restrictions and no bus services. There is no bus service that directly links Failand to a railway station.

Sense of Community

- A few months ago, residents across the parish voted in a poll organised by the Parish Council and twice in consultations for North Somerset Council's Community Governance Review by a substantial majority for the area of the parish that adjoins Nailsea (The Elms) not to be part of Nailsea or to change any boundaries.
- Parish Council meetings are held in the Cross Tree Centre, next to All Saints' church, Wraxall and the Failand Village Hall, alternating with remote Parish Council discussions, which are held on Zoom.
- Wraxall and Failand share the same area with Long Ashton, Flax Bourton and Winford for the Redwood beat for Avon & Somerset police.⁵
- The civic parish shares the same area as the ecclesiastical parish of 'Wraxall with Failand'⁶ with two churches: All Saints' in Wraxall and St Bartholomew's in Lower Failand. The ecclesiastical parish belongs to the ecumenical group of 'Christians Together in Nailsea & District' and is part of the CONNECT project, which serves the local school community in Nailsea by funding a Christian youth worker at Nailsea School, who is making an important impact in that community working alongside staff and pupils.
- Wraxall CEVA Primary School⁷ is across the road from All Saints' church and is closely linked with it⁸. Parents can use the church car park and access the school through the churchyard to cross the road with a light-controlled crossing. There is also a walk to school through the fields from the Grove, in the village. Both the crossing and the footpath have been initiated by the parish council, working with North Somerset Council, the school and landowners. There is a coffee morning once a month in the Cross Tree Centre for parents and the community.
- The Downs School is an independent preparatory school located to the north of Tyntesfield. The parish churches support collective worship at the school and they use the churches for Christingle services and an end of year school celebration.
- The Cross Tree Centre hosts the church activities, yoga classes and the Women's Institute, who meet monthly. Choirs and orchestras hold concerts at St Bartholomew's church.

⁵ <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/avon-somerset-constabulary/redwood/?yourlocalpolicingteam=about-us>

⁶ <https://www.wraxallwithfailand.org.uk/aboutus.htm>

⁷ <https://www.wraxallprimary.co.uk/>

⁸ <https://www.wraxallprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Our+Community&pid=120>

- Failand Village Hall is a venue for markets, parties, quiz nights and monthly community teas and bar nights⁹. It also hosts the following local clubs¹⁰:
 - Failand Art and Crafts Club
 - Dinky Drivers - children up to the age of six at child led Stay & Play Sessions
 - Now Yoga
 - Whist Club
 - Bristol Bonsai Society
 - Little City Bristol – a role-play experience for preschoolers
 - Bristol School of Tai Chi
- Wraxall Village Association (the Village Club) hosts the Nailsea Shedders Community workshop, a group of people who enjoy doing practical things and making music together to help reduce social isolation in the community¹¹.
- The house, gardens and woodland at the National Trust Tyntesfield¹² are a major visitor attraction. The National Trust organises and hosts a wide variety of events, ranging from outdoor theatre to craft workshops.
- Somerset Bodgers¹³, a 'not for profit' local group affiliated to the Association of Pole-Lathe Turners and Green Woodworkers, are an integral part of the National Trust at Tyntesfield¹⁴. They offer courses and workshops and work with local schools.
- The Belmont Estate¹⁵ to the east and south of Tyntesfield is committed to rewild landscapes, farm organically and help to mitigate climate change, connecting people to nature and regenerating communities. This is achieved through corporate partnerships and by school, higher education and charity visits and corporate and wildlife volunteering.
- The North Somerset Showground is on the SE boundary of the parish to the south of the B3130 between Wraxall and Long Ashton. The principal event is the annual show held in May¹⁶. It also host other events, including Ploughing matches, Dig for Victory, VW rallies and fireworks and laser displays.
- The Failand Inn, now the only pub in the parish, is well supported. Honey & Ginger (formerly the Failand Post Office), is a community farm store and coffee shop, opposite the Village Hall.
- StudioHIVE & StudioHIVE Architects are in the process of restoring Temperance House, a Grade II Listed building, which was the former Battleaxes public house and had been a notable landmark in Wraxall for over 140 years. Their vision is for it to be a place to meet, live, work, pick up groceries, grab a coffee or take part in a local club.¹⁷
- Play areas – three in the Elms, one next to the Failand Village Hall and one in the Grove, Wraxall. The Elms play areas are currently managed by North Somerset

⁹ <https://www.failandvillagehall.org.uk/villagehall-events>

¹⁰ <https://www.failandvillagehall.org.uk/villagehall-clubs>

¹¹ <https://www.nailseashedders.org/>

¹² <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/bath-bristol/tyntesfield>

¹³ <https://www.bodgers.org.uk/>

¹⁴ <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/bath-bristol/tyntesfield/our-work-on-the-estate-at-tyntesfield#rt-the-somerset-bodgers>

¹⁵ <https://belmont.estate/>

¹⁶ <https://www.nsas.org.uk/>

¹⁷ <https://www.temperancehouse-bristol.co.uk/our-vision>

Council but it is anticipated that management will transfer to the Parish Council, which also manages the other play areas.

- There is an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways in the parish, some of which link to the Festival Way¹⁸, a largely traffic-free route between Bristol city centre and Nailsea and promoted by the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly Sustrans). These are popular with local walking and running groups, as well as local walkers and horse riders.
- Ashton Hill plantation¹⁹ (in Long Ashton) on the SE corner of Failand is a popular site for walking, cycling and horse-riding for both parishes. There are also walking trails in Wraxall Piece²⁰, ¾ mile to the NE. Both sites are managed by the Forest Commission.
- Failand & Portbury Cricket Club²¹ plays home games at their Horse Race Lane ground in Lower Failand.
- Failand Table Tennis club²², opposite St Bartholomew's in Lower Failand is very competitive and has an active expanding membership from a wide area²³.
- The Bristol & Clifton Golf Club²⁴ and Long Ashton Golf Club²⁵ to the NE and east of Failand are available to visitors.
- The Bristol Astronomical Society²⁶ to the east of Failand is run by amateur astronomers as a non-profit making educational charity. It is one of the most active Astronomical Societies in the UK.

Nearby areas with which our area shares a community identity and interests

- The Parish Council has a good working relationship with adjacent Parish and Town Councils, particularly Long Ashton. Both parishes are in the Green Belt and share concerns about speculative development and the increasing pressure on the rural road network from development to the west.
- Our District Councillors (Long Ashton ward) have much experience and affinity with our parish. They understand and are advocates for local issues and facilitate good local government in our parish.
- There are a wide range of clubs and societies in Nailsea
- In addition to its own Neighbourhood Plans Wraxall and Failand Parish Council has contributed to Neighbourhood Plans for Long Ashton and Backwell.

¹⁸ <https://www.walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk/find-a-route-on-the-national-cycle-network/festival-way/>

¹⁹ <https://www.forestryengland.uk/ashton-hill>

²⁰ <https://www.forestryengland.uk/wraxall-piece>

²¹ <https://www.cricketclubsbristol.co.uk/about>

²² <https://failandttc.com/>

²³ https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/2025/sw-honouring-the-past-planning-for-the-future-failand-ttc/?fbclid=IwDGRleAOKgOdleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2NjI4NTY4Mzc5AAEebCBOKGW2svyU_ILQ6ju0dxNAH0I23Y39-GXM9fRQ6sodc2ojcdmAM7Qyjcw_aem_lswwtaqbQxN7aeqiAp-lfA

²⁴ <https://www.bristolandcliftongolfclub.co.uk/>

²⁵ <https://www.longashtongolfclub.co.uk/>

²⁶ <https://bristolastrosoc.org.uk/>

North Somerset

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ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NORTH SOMERSET

It is noted that when the Commission last conducted this review, there was a tour of 'Rural North and Gordano Valley' in spring 2013 and made the following relevant observations:

- the predominantly rural character shared by the parishes of Wraxall & Failand and Long Ashton. (We wish to maintain this positive link.)
- the common character of the parishes in Gordano Valley which border the town of Portishead. (Wraxall has little in common with the Gordano parishes.)
- Walton-in-Gordano and Weston-in-Gordano are only accessible via Clevedon or Portishead.

In many respects little has changed. The majority of the parish is in the Green Belt and there has been little development. The emerging Local Plan has identified land to the north of Nailsea for development as being in the Grey Belt, although this conflicts with one of the draft policies in the plan for Best and Most Versatile land.

Visitor numbers for the National Trust at Tyntesfield and the Noah's Ark Zoo Farm have increased. Two of the three public houses in the parish have closed, reflecting national trends. The Post Office in Failand has been replaced by a store and community café. Some of the clubs and societies operating from the Failand Village Hall have been replaced by other groups.

Since the last review, residents have contributed to the Neighbourhood Plan, which was ratified by North Somerset Council on 12 November

2024. It forms part of the Development Plan and will be used to help guide development proposals within the parish of Wraxall and Failand. A referendum was held on the plan on Thursday 19 September 2024 and the vote was 95.91% in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan.

A few months ago, residents across the parish voted in a poll organised by the Parish Council and twice in consultations for North Somerset Council's Community Governance Review by a substantial majority for the area of the parish that adjoins Nailsea (The Elms) not to be part of Nailsea or to change any boundaries.

To aid the Commission a brief of the key points pertaining to our parish is attached for consideration.

Wraxall and Failand Parish Council do not see the need for any change to the boundaries.

Attached Documents:

- wf-pc-response---key-points-for-lgbc-to-consider.pdf