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North Devon Council
Brynsworthy Environment Centre
Barnstaple
North Devon EX31 3NP

K. Miles
Chief Executive.

To: All Members of the Council
and Chief Officers

NOTE: PLEASE NOTE THAT PRAYERS WILL BE SAID AT 6.25 P.M. PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING FOR ANY MEMBER WHO WISHES TO ATTEND

COUNCIL MEETING

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of **NORTH DEVON COUNCIL** to be held in the G107, 1st Floor, South West Institute Development Building, Petroc, Barnstaple - Petroc College on **WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2023 at 6.30 pm.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Miles', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

12. Questions by Members (Pages 7 - 8)
Questions to the Leader or the Chair of a Committee submitted under Part 4, Council Procedure Rules, paragraph 10.4 of the Constitution.

If you have any enquiries about this agenda, please contact Corporate and Community Services, telephone 01271 388253

14.11.23

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR RULES OF DEBATE AT MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

Part 4, Council Procedure Rules of the Constitution

The basics

At a meeting of Full Council, Members shall stand when speaking unless unable to do so and shall address the Chair.

While a Member is speaking, other Members shall remain seated unless rising for a point of order, a point of information or in personal explanation.

No speeches may be made after the mover had moved a proposal and explained the purpose of it until the motion has been seconded.

Unless notice of motion has already been given, the Chair may require it to be written down and handed to him before it is discussed.

When seconding a motion or amendment, a member may reserve their speech until later in the debate.

Speeches must be directed to the question under discussion or to be personal explanation or point of order.

A speech by the mover of a motion may not exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the Chair.

Speeches by other Members may not exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Chair, unless when the Council's annual budget is under discussion, the leader of each political group on the Council may speak for up to 5 minutes or such longer period as the Chair shall allow.

The rules of Question Time

At a meeting of the Council, other than the Annual meeting, a Member of the Council may ask the Leader or the chair of a committee any question without notice upon an item of the report of a committee when that item is being received or under consideration by the Council.



North Devon Council protocol on recording/filming at Council meetings

The Council is committed to openness and transparency in its decision-making. Recording is permitted at Council meetings that are open to the public. Members of the public that attend meetings must be aware that these meetings are open to the public and so therefore both individuals and the Council itself have the right to record the meeting. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be filmed. The Chair of the meeting will make sure any request not to be filmed is respected.

The rules that the Council will apply are:

1. The recording must be overt (clearly visible to anyone at the meeting) and must not disrupt proceedings. The Council will put signs up at any meeting where we know recording is taking place.
2. The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to stop or suspend recording if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting or if the person recording is in breach of these rules.
3. We will ask for recording to stop if the meeting goes into 'part B' where the public is excluded for confidentiality reasons. In such a case, the person recording should leave the room ensuring all recording equipment is switched off.
4. Any member of the public has the right not to be filmed. We ensure that agendas for, and signage at, Council meetings make it clear that recording can take place – anyone not wishing to be filmed must advise the Chair at the earliest opportunity to allow them to be directed to an area in the room where they will not be caught on camera. Subject to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above, audio recordings shall be permitted at all times during public meetings.
5. The recording should not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or in a way that ridicules or shows a lack of respect for those in the recording. The Council would expect any recording in breach of these rules to be removed from public view.

Notes for guidance:

Please contact either our Corporate and Community Services team or our Communications team in advance of the meeting you wish to record at so we can make all the necessary arrangements for you on the day.

For more information contact the Corporate and Community Services team on **01271 388253** or email memberservices@northdevon.gov.uk or the Communications Team on **01271 388278**, email communications@northdevon.gov.uk.

Room G107 is located on the first floor of the South West Institute Development building at Petroc, Old Sticklepath Hill, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 2BQ. A lift is available to the first floor.

The following page shows a location plan of Petroc.

G Block on the plan indicates the South West Institute Development building.

Parking

Point 5 on the plan indicates the short stay car park which is located adjacent to the South West Institute Development building which is free to park after 5.00 p.m.

Cycle Racks

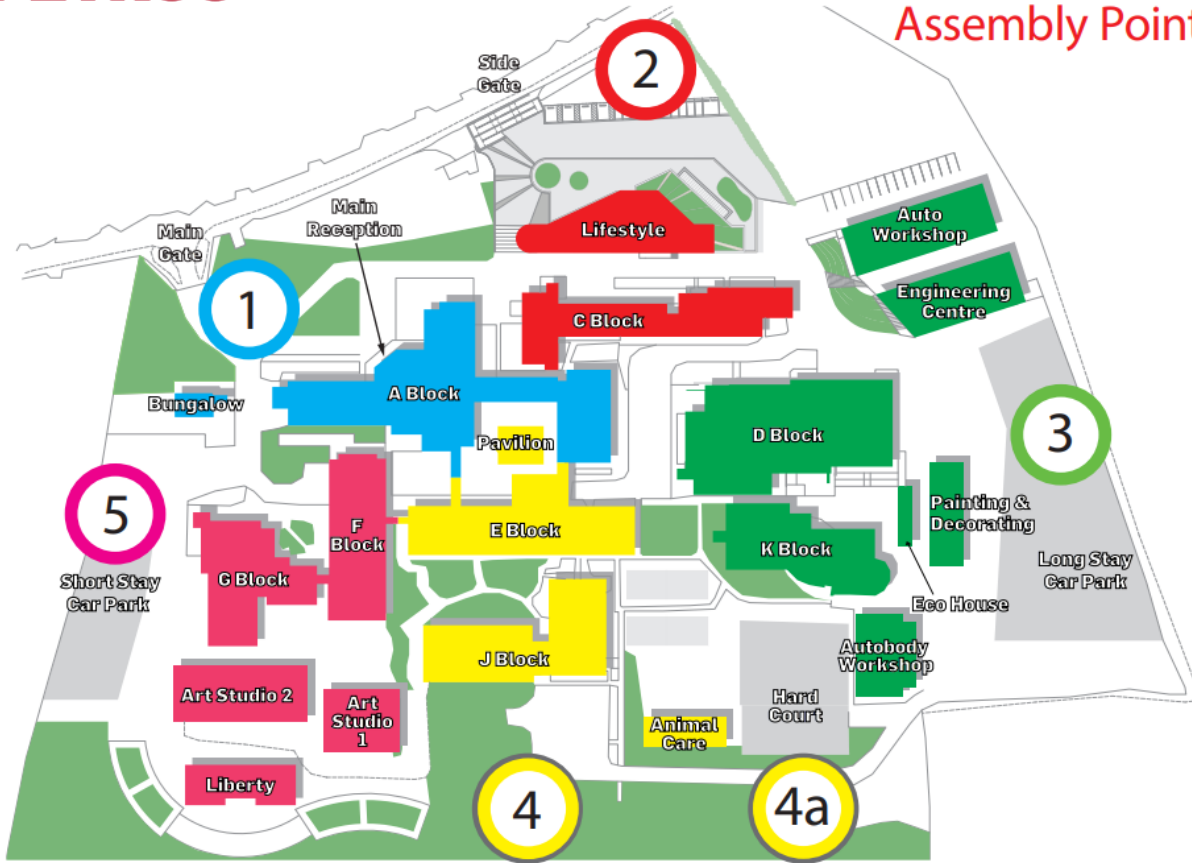
Covered cycle racks are located on the grassed area opposite Petroc's main reception, before the Lifestyle building.

Bus Routes

Stops in **Sticklepath Hill** (East bound) bus service 310
Wrey Arms (West bound) bus services 5B, 21, 21A, 21C, 62C, 322, 386, 646, 815, 821, 903, 921
([Sticklepath, Barnstaple – Bus Times](#))

Fire evacuation procedures

Fire evacuation procedures - Upon hearing a constant 2-tone alarm, please leave the building via your nearest marked fire exit and make your way to the nearest assembly point which is the short stay car park (Point 5 on the map). Lifts are not to be used. Please do not take time to pick up personal belongings and leave the building promptly.



NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 22 NOVEMBER 2023

QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OR THE CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE SUBMITTED UNDER PART 4 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES, PARAGRAPH 10.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Question for the Leader from Councillor Bell and Councillor Roome, Leader's responses:

"DCC have once again surreptitiously opened a consultation on the future of the Link Centres in North Devon with a view to cutting, what DCC regard as an expensive extravagance, but for the users of the Link Centres (in Ilfracombe, Barnstaple and Bideford) are a vital lifeline and a way to facilitate access to mental health services and more importantly, a vital social hub where some of the most vulnerable and forgotten adults in our society can meet and find companionship, common ground and mutual support. DCC have now launched a third consultation on this matter and appear hell-bound to continue "consulting" until they finally get the answer they want. Fortunately, the people of North Devon and the excellent work of Save our Hospital Services have kept the wolf from the door so far. But it is only a matter of time before North Devon loses yet another County service. Would the Leader please agree;

- (a) That North Devon Council should strongly appeal to Devon County Council that these services are vital and should continue

Councillor Roome, Leader's response: "I concur that the Link Centres play a crucial role in supporting individuals facing mental health challenges. As Leader of North Devon and a Devon County Councillor, I am committed to advocating for their retention and continued operation."

- (b) To urgently ask our comms team to promote this consultation to maximise the voice of North Devon on this vital matter

Councillor Roome, Leader's response: "I've requested our Communications Team to disseminate the consultation links across our various media channels."

- (c) Thank Save Our Hospital Services for their tireless work in protecting and promoting the healthcare services of our distant, isolated community."

Councillor Roome, Leader's response: "I align with Cllr Bell's viewpoint that Save Our Hospital Services rightfully deserve acknowledgment for their ongoing efforts and advocacy to safeguard these crucial mental health services. Their persistent lobbying ensures the protection of services relied upon by numerous users at the Link Centres."

I trust that the Conservative administration at Devon County Council will attentively consider all users' perspectives and refrain from moving forward with any closures of the existing service provision in its present operational format.”