



Public Document Pack

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

K. Miles
Chief Executive.

SPECIAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Policy Development Committee will be held in the G107, 1st Floor, South West Institute Development Building, Petroc, Barnstaple - Petroc College on **THURSDAY, 29TH FEBRUARY, 2024 at 6.30 pm.**

(NOTE: A location plan for the Brynsworthy Environment Centre is attached to the agenda front pages. For meetings held at Brynsworthy only, you can join the meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. There are also limited spaces to attend the meeting in person. Please check the Council's website for the latest information regarding the arrangements that are in place and the requirement to book a place 2 working days prior to the meeting. Taking part in meetings (northdevon.gov.uk)

Members of the Policy Development Councillor L. Spear (Chair)
Committee.

Councillors Bishop, Bulled, Bushell, Clayton, Hunt, Jones, P Leaver, Patrinos, Turton, Wilson and Worden.

AGENDA

5. Water Quality. To consider the impact of water quality within the North Devon area.
 - (e) North Devon Biosphere. Appendix E (attached). (Pages 5 - 6)

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

21.02.24



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.

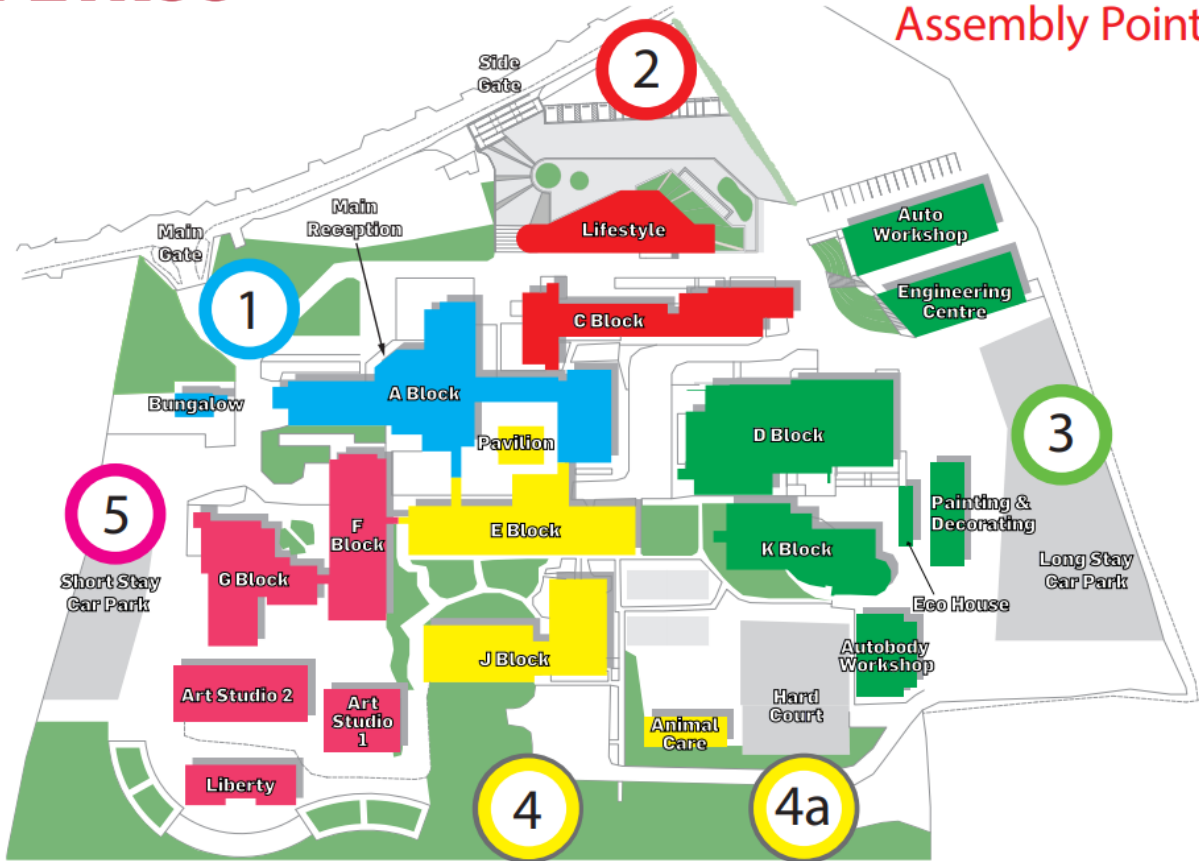
Bus Routes

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.



Response to questions received from the North Devon Biosphere:

1. In your opinion, how bad is the issue of water pollution in the rivers and on the beaches of North Devon and what are the causes?

It is bad. Various and depends on the river. River umber bacteriological loading is split 30% human, 30% ruminant, 30% urban runoff.

Microbial source sampling in the estuary indicates 80% ruminant.

Significant water management issue	Changes to the natural flow and level of water	Invasive non-native species	Physical modifications	Pollution from abandoned mines	Pollution from rural areas	Pollution from towns, cities and transport	Pollution from waste water
Agriculture and rural land management	2	0	2	0	153	0	0
Domestic general public	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Industry	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Local & central government	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mining and quarrying	0	0	0	4	0	1	0
Navigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No sector responsible	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sector under investigation	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Urban and transport	0	0	2	0	0	7	0
Waste treatment and disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Industry	0	0	1	0	0	0	92
Total	2	1	9	4	153	16	94

2. The public receives a variety of different information on the water quality in their rivers and on their coast. Sometimes this information conflicts. Who is responsible for this confusion? And how should the public be informed?

A trusted source is needed and one that is also responsive. The conflict comes from some alerts lasting too long, and others that may be late and not instantaneous.

3. In order for planning authorities to properly determine planning applications, should water companies provide up to date appropriate information on the capacity of sewage disposal for the proposed development?

Yes. The AMP process should ensure that upgrades keep pace with development and the local plan, but there is a risk they fall out of step.

4. Individual organisations and groups currently undertake their own testing. How can we compare those results and use that data in the most effective way?

We are proposing in the Catchment Management group under the Biosphere reserve to have a combined real time water quality monitoring system that uses data sources of all types.

5. When will this situation be resolved and how? And what are the main impediments?

It is going to take time. We had estimated that to clean the catchment with agricultural issues alone would need £95 million investment.