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

K. Miles
Chief Executive.

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. (d) South West Water. Appendix D (attached). (Pages 5 - 8).

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.

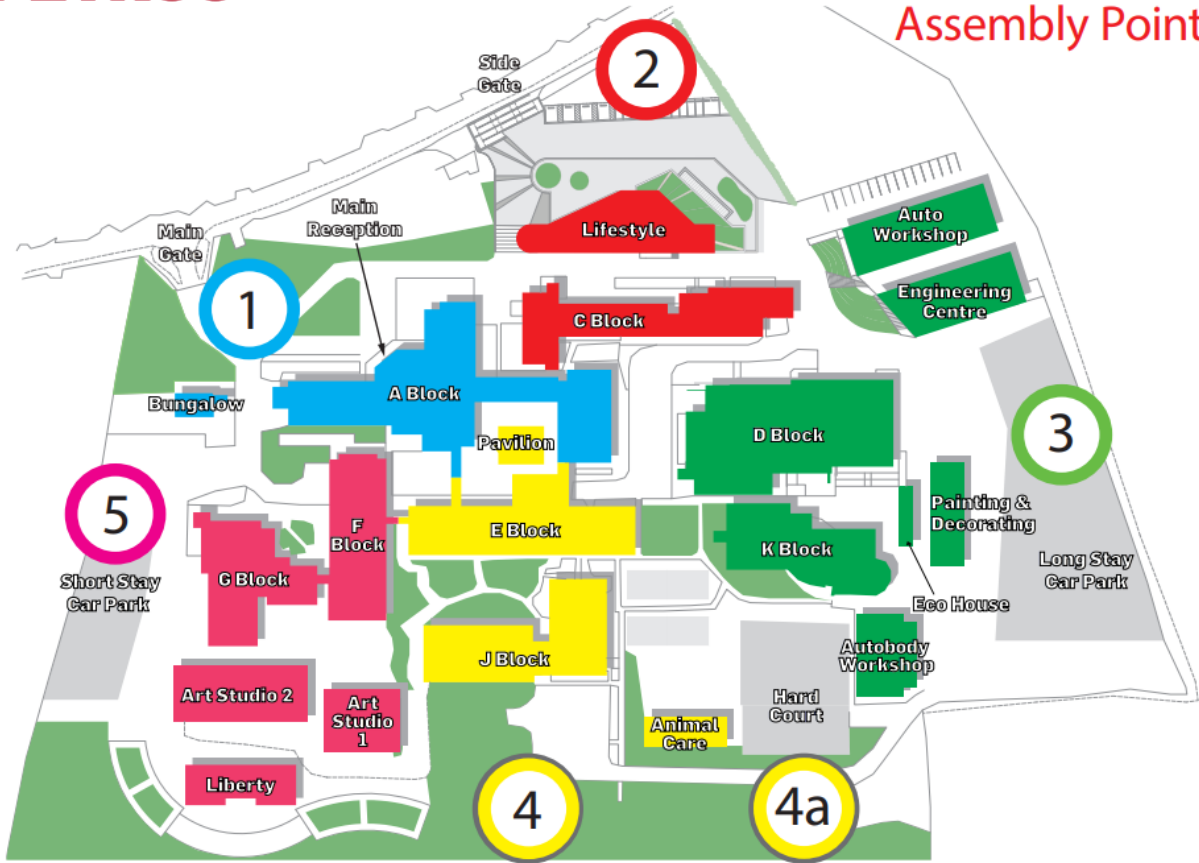
Bus Routes

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 South West Water

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?

The Environment Agency hold the one version of the truth on the state of the environment for England for land, air and water. It would be appropriate for them to comment on the wider impacts as part of their River Basin Management Plan analysis. South West Water's Water Industry National Environment Programme is driven by the analysis undertaken by the Environment Agency using their River Basin Management Plans. This programme is monitored by the Environment Agency and forms part of the Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA) Star Rating that is reported on by the Environment Agency in June.

Other sources of pollution occur e.g. from urban areas, quarrying, agriculture, other industries. The Environment Agency will be able to provide a wider perspective on all pollutions for North Devon and Torridge area. Our WaterFit Strategy (1 Year On) indicates South West Water contributed c. 12% towards the reasons for not achieving good ecological status. A link to this report is here: [waterfit-one-year-on-2023.pdf \(southwestwater.co.uk\)](https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/waterfit-one-year-on-2023.pdf) – see page NB. This percentage contribution can change with time as new data is included within the assessments undertaken by the Environment Agency.

South West Water's WaterFit Programme also identifies where we will be investing in the period up to 2025. Our plans for further investment are currently with OFWAT as part of our PR24 submission. This Plan includes a £2.8bn investment and will address issues including storm overflow reduction. The Storm Overflow Action Plan (SOAP) is currently awaiting the Secretary of State's approval for publishing. This will show where we plan to invest in our storm overflows and what planning period we plan to invest. Our storm overflow improvement have been informed by feedback from customers and stakeholders who have asked that we focus on storm overflows near bathing waters and shellfish waters in the first instance. Our Storm Overflow Action Plan will be reduce the operation of storm overflows 10 years ahead of the Government target.

Water pollutions recorded by the Environment Agency that were attributed to South West Water show there was a reduction in pollution incidents between 2020 and 2022 from 225 to 108 across the South West Water Region. In North Devon / Torridge the numbers were as follows: 16 in 2020, 14 in 2021 and 7 in 2022 across both districts. Figures for 2023 have yet to be verified and validated by the Environment Agency, but we do expect to see an uptick in pollutions for 2023. There was only one serious pollution incident across North Devon / Torridge for the period 2020 to 2023. Our target is to achieve zero pollution incidents across the whole of the South West Region by 2025.

Bathing water quality is monitored by the Environment Agency and the data and classification is provided on gov.uk. Bathing water quality has improved significantly since 1990 as a result of investment. Where bathing water quality

isn't as expected the Environment Agency will review these location as part of their priority programme.

Bathing water classification can be found here: [Bathing water quality \(data.gov.uk\)](https://data.gov.uk)

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?

The Environment Agency own the state of the environment for air, land and water. They are responsible for the Bating Water Classification which covers the period 1 May to 30 September. However, both the Environment Agency and South West Water are undertaking sampling outside of the bathing season to understand how bathing water quality may change. Currently, the Environment Agency are monitoring at a limited number of location and they can provide more details on this. South West Water propose to sample daily at up to c.30 bathing beaches for a whole year to understand how water quality changes through the year, use the data to inform pollution risk forecasting and better understand the potential impacts / causes. This proposal and the logistics associated with sampling and analysis are currently being worked up. To put the sampling into perspective, the Environment Agency take up to 20 samples (as a maximum) during the bathing season, South West Water proposed to take 365 samples at each beach for up to c.30 beaches. This will support our ambitions within our WaterFit Strategy to ensure continue to protect and where we can improve bathing water quality.

SAS alerts are based on data provided to them from South West Water. They choose to hold their alert for a longer period of time then South West Water's WaterFit alerts. The Environment Agency's pollution risk forecast (prf) is primarily driven by the requirements of the Bathing Water Directive as transcribed into UK Law. The Environment Agency are best placed to respond to the purpose of the PRF as it is their system. Further information and explanation can be provided on the date of the meeting if required.

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?

I understand this question has been previously answered at a joint North Devon and Torridge DC Full Committee. Further discussions are planned at joint meeting of Torridge and North Devon DC on Friday 1 March 2024. A copy of the slides that were previously discussed are attached for information.

- 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?**

South West Water undertake sampling for a variety of reasons driven either by the need to collect environment impact information to inform new schemes or to ascertain whether an pollution may have occurred. The Environment Agency primarily collect information to inform the state of the environment and to help inform longer term investment plans and interventions. Further information and explanation can be provided on the date of the meeting if required.

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

appThis question would need to be directed to a number of organisations as there are specific issues that would need to be address. Further information and explanation can be provided on the date of the meeting following further clarity surrounding this question.

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