



## Public Document Pack

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

K. Miles  
Chief Executive.

### **POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A special 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, 23RD MAY, 2024 at 6.30 pm.**

**(NOTE: A location plan for Petroc is attached to the agenda front pages. 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, Jones, P Leaver, Patrinos, Turton, Wilson, Worden and Williams

### **AGENDA**

5(g) Director - Mole Valley Farmers. Appendix G (attached). (Pages 5 - 8)

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

15.05.24



## **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](mailto:memberservices@northdevon.gov.uk) or the Communications Team on **01271 388278**, email [communications@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto: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**

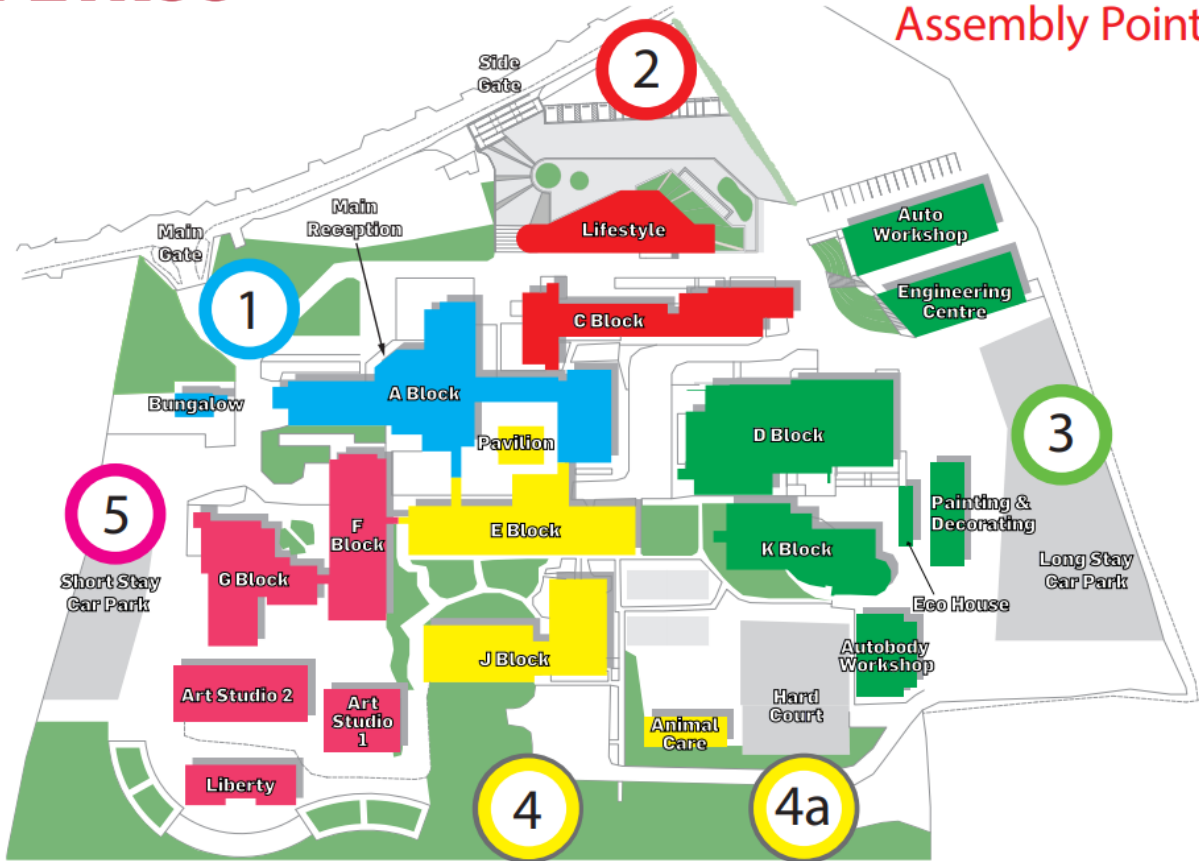
Stops in **Sticklepath Hill** (East bound) bus service 310

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.



<p><b>Name of representative/organisation:</b> Peter Delbridge, Mole Valley Farmers</p>	<p><b>Answers provided to questions from the Committee:</b></p>
<p><b>1. How do you see the current state of agriculture in North Devon? What is its primary role and how do you think it contributes to the wider North Devon economy?</b></p>	<p>Agriculture is starting to go through a massive change as a result of UK Policy following Brexit, and dynamics arising from turbulence of world economics and geo political tensions. Most farmers and their families would historically see themselves as food producers. Whilst this role is still considered very important, many also see the opportunity to scale back production and embark on environmental work, if the financial incentives are good enough.</p> <p>Whilst the number of people directly employed in agriculture may not fall off a cliff immediately, the number of people employed in ancillary industries, both up and down stream will be more dramatic.</p> <p>Like it or not a lot of what people in other sector value, such as tourism, owe so much to the farmed landscape that we all see and treasure. If the landscape changes dramatically, will that still be the case?</p>
<p><b>2. What are the challenges and how do you see they can be overcome?</b></p>	<p>There are many challenges on the horizon. One of the most pressing is succession. Farmers like everyone are getting older, and with the help of the NHS are farming longer. There is not enough young folks around!</p> <p>As rural affordable housing seems to be getting scarcer, should the council be charging full community tax on people employed in agriculture, especially the younger ones.</p>

	<p>Input prices have become very volatile in the past 10 years, and despite food inflation being widely reported in many cases the income being passed back the dysfunctional supply chain has not given adequate returns back to the primary producer. Group buying and selling would help by giving farmers a bit more power by giving them scale.</p>
<p><b>3. What are the opportunities going forward for farming and what can farming contribute to the future of North Devon as a whole?</b></p>	<p>Current Agricultural policy towards green policies will allow farmers to diversify their businesses. Whether that will result in an increase in employment overall is debatable.</p>
<p><b>4. What can North Devon Council do to support the situation with agriculture in North Devon?</b></p>	<p>As all politicians barely think beyond their electoral cycle, it would be great if the council really put in some thinking of what is required for the next 10 or twenty years.</p> <p>Since grassland [and permanent grass in particular] is a good carbon sink, it would be good if the council realised the rearing of livestock in North Devon is very sustainable and resisted the temptation to jump on the vegan/ vegetarian band wagon.</p>



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