

NEWSLINE | Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch | Issue 03 | March 2026

Working Together for a Safer Norfolk

Upcoming Neighbourhood Watch Activities

HAVE YOUR SAY or FIND OUT MORE | Regular monthly online Coordinator TEAMS meetings - Next meeting is 30 April 2026 – 7pm

Join our Coordinator Teams meetings from the comfort of your home. This is an excellent opportunity to tell us what is going on in your communities, listen to what others are doing, and build connections. Come with your stories, your questions and leave with ideas for your neighbourhood.

At our most recent meeting, Nik came along to tell us about a new scheme he had set up on the outskirts of Norwich. He and his neighbours were concerned with issues around anti-social behaviour, and he also wanted to know more about NW signage. By attending, the team were able to offer advice and plan for Nik to obtain the latest Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch signs.

What We're Seeing Across Norfolk

1. Community Connection is the Front Line

- There is a clear shift from reacting to crime to **preventing it through stronger communities**. Isolation, particularly among vulnerable residents, is emerging as a key risk factor.

2. Scams are Increasing in Sophistication

- Phishing emails, bank scams, and social engineering are rising.
- No one is immune – even experienced professionals are being targeted.
- The impact is not just financial, but also emotional and psychological.

3. Local Issues Continue

- Anti-social behaviour (motorbikes, drugs, vandalism).
- Isolated incidents often act as a **trigger for community mobilisation**.
- As a known and trusted brand Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch can help prevent crime and signpost where to get help when needed.

4. Police Feedback Gap

- Coordinators continue to highlight a lack of updates after reporting incidents to local policing teams.
- This is affecting confidence and willingness to report and something we will be following up on their behalf.

Spotlight - Future Projects

Norwich Coordinator **Grace Richardson (Future Projects)**

Future projects is a charity based in Norwich. They also have their own radio station “Future Radio” in Mile Cross, Norwich!

Apart from running a local drop-in centre, Grace manages a team of “Life Connectors” in North Norfolk and Breckland. The focus is on helping those in the community, 50+, affected by loneliness and social isolation; or for those who need help and support in sustaining employment. Life Connectors work in local communities and drop into GP surgeries and community centres.

“Life Connectors” model:

- Connects isolated individuals to community activities, work, and volunteering.
- Supports local groups with small funding pots.
- Focuses on long-term, sustainable community wellbeing.

Could Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and Life Connectors work together to add value, particularly around helping to prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and give an overall improved sense safety and well-being? **Watch this space.**

Local Watch Stories

“Helping Hands Make a Difference in the Broads”

A small act of kindness has made a big difference to one elderly resident living in a Norfolk Broads village, highlighting the importance of community support in an increasingly digital world.

The resident recently faced a stressful situation when they were unable to pay their annual Brown Bin collection fee. With North Norfolk District Council no longer accepting cheque payments, and no option to pay by debit card over the

phone, they found themselves stuck. Without access to a car, broadband, or a mobile phone, the usual online payment route was simply not an option.

Feeling understandably distressed, the resident reached out to their local NNW Coordinator for help.

Stepping in with practical support, the Coordinator used their own computer to access the council's website and complete the payment on the resident's behalf. As part of the process, they also set up an email account for the resident, which was required to complete the transaction.

While the experience highlighted the challenges faced by those who are not digitally connected, it also showcased the power of local support networks. The resident expressed frustration at the lack of accessible payment options but was deeply grateful for the assistance they received.

This story is a reminder that, as services continue to move online, community organisations like NNW play a vital role in ensuring no one is left behind.

Training Workshops

Cyberhood Watch Ambassador

Worried about Scams, Cybercrime or online fraud? This training could be for you!

What do Cyberhood Ambassadors do?

Ambassadors educate, help and protect people. They share information, answer cybersecurity questions and concerns, and deliver Cyberhood Watch events and activities. Our very own Multi-Scheme Administrator, for North Norfolk says: "*It's pretty straightforward and helps gain a much better understanding around online vulnerability*". You can also read a case study from Anthony, based in Devon.

To find out more, click here: [Join Cyberhood Watch | Neighbourhood Watch Network](#)

Why not join the Knowledge Hub?

Plenty of free training just visit the site below:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge-hub>

Do you run, or work for, a local business?

Check out the latest updates to help local businesses:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/training>

📍 Crime – New trend alert

Organised crime groups are increasingly turning their attention to the global food industry—and it's not hard to see why. Food may seem like an unlikely target compared to drugs or weapons, but it offers something criminal networks value highly: high demand, low suspicion, and steady profits.

One major reason is the sheer scale and complexity of modern food supply chains. Ingredients often travel across multiple countries before reaching supermarket shelves, passing through numerous intermediaries along the way. This complexity creates opportunities for fraud, such as mislabelling products, diluting quality, or substituting cheaper ingredients. Criminal groups can exploit these gaps with relatively low risk of detection.

Another factor is profitability. Food fraud—like selling counterfeit olive oil, fake organic produce, or adulterated meat—can generate large margins. Unlike narcotics, the penalties for food-related crimes are often less severe, making it a lower-risk, high-reward enterprise. For organised crime groups, that's an attractive equation.

Economic pressures also play a role. Rising food prices and supply shortages, driven by climate change, geopolitical tensions, and global disruptions, create opportunities for exploitation. When supply is tight, buyers may be less cautious, and regulators may struggle to keep up, allowing fraudulent goods to enter the market more easily.

Additionally, food businesses can be used for money laundering. Restaurants, import-export companies, and wholesale distributors provide legitimate fronts through which illicit funds can be moved and disguised. The cash-heavy nature of parts of the food sector makes it particularly vulnerable.

Finally, consumer trust in food systems is high and people generally assume what they buy is safe and authentic. Criminal groups take advantage of this trust, knowing that food products are less likely to raise immediate suspicion than other illicit goods.

Just over the border in Suffolk an artisan smokehouse was scammed out of smoked salmon worth £37,000 after an order from a supposed French supermarket ended up after being tracked down by the owner to a dodgy garage in east London.

In short, organised crime's move into the food sector reflects a strategic shift: away from high-risk illegal markets and toward industries where the line between legal and illegal activity is easier to blur.

Crime Prevention — What You Can Do

Recognise something isn't right - What to do?

Check out CRIMESTOPPERS website for more info:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

What about young people? Try Fearless...It's an online reporting tool for young people who can report stuff they know isn't right, ANONYMOUSLY:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/what-is-fearless>

Giving Lottery

Want a chance to win up to £25,000 per week? For £1 per week, you are in with a chance! At the same time, you will be helping to secure future activities for Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch. For every £1, NNW will receive 40 pence, that's a win-win. You can sign up at the link below. Good luck!

<https://www.givinglottery.org.uk/support/norfolk-neighbourhood-watch>

**Best wishes,
The NNW Team**

<https://www.facebook.com/NorfolkNeighbourhoodWatch-UK>