

NORFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLINE

Issue 08 | August 2026



Increased Growth, New Digital Initiatives and Community Success Across Norfolk

Working Together for a Safer Norfolk

From expanding local schemes to strengthening digital communication, Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch continues to build safer, more connected communities while tackling emerging challenges across the county.

This month's Newsline focus is to share a report from our 27 August 2026 Annual General Meeting

REPORT FROM THE NNW 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The latest NNW Annual General Meeting brought together coordinators, committee members and community representatives to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the opportunities and challenges facing Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch (NNW).

Chair Les Rowlands welcomed everyone and introduced the committee before members reviewed the organisation's progress, changes in policing, fundraising, committee arrangements and an exciting new two-year partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN).

Looking back – a year of change

The past year has brought considerable organisational change for NNW.

Following last year's AGM, changes within the OPCC temporarily disrupted administrative support. NNW responded by concentrating on strengthening its own digital platforms and internal capability.

One of the biggest ongoing challenges is balancing the needs of existing schemes and coordinators while continuing to develop and support new neighbourhood schemes.

Our challenge - support today's coordinators while building tomorrow's Neighbourhood Watch Network.

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Working more closely with Norfolk Police

There have also been changes to NNW's police liaison arrangements.

Sgt Sam Burton has moved to a new role after playing an important part in helping NNW establish stronger relationships with local Safer Neighbourhood Teams. With the deletion of PCSO capacity and wider changes to policing, NNW has adopted a more locally focused approach. Coordinators are now encouraged to contact their local police teams directly when support or advice is needed.

We also welcomed Sgt Dan Smith, the new Norfolk Police Community Liaison Officer, who provided an update.

A new two-year partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN)

A major opportunity for NNW!

One of the most important developments discussed, at our AGM, was the planned two-year partnership between NNW and OPCCN.

The partnership is intended to strengthen NNW's organisation, improve communication and training, increase access to funding and resources, and give communities a stronger voice in preventing crime and antisocial behaviour.

Partnership priorities for the next twelve months:

- Establishing a dedicated OPCCN contact for NNW.
- Ensuring NNW is included in important consultations, including development of the new Police and Crime Plan.
- Exploring formal NNW membership of the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership.
- Improving Neighbourhood Alert training, data and usage.
- Updating welcome packs and resources for NNW coordinators.
- Providing stronger support and follow-up for new schemes.
- Increasing NNW publicity and developing a new website.
- Identifying funding opportunities and aiding with grant applications.
- Exploring integration with new crime-alert technology.
- Introducing clearer objectives and performance measures.
- Moving towards more coordinated, outcome-focused monthly NNW/OPCCN meetings.
- Providing OPCCN assistance with NNW's general administration.

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Looking ahead

This new partnership provides an opportunity to turn the challenges of the past year into a stronger foundation for the future.

The ambition is clear:

**A stronger, more self-sufficient NNW with better connections
across Norfolk's community safety network.**

Fundraising — Every Contribution Counts

Funding remains an important priority, particularly for supporting new Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

During the past year, almost £1,000 worth of NNW signs were purchased and distributed. Where hardship was an issue, signs were provided free of charge.

NNW is also exploring a range of alternative fundraising methods.

Easyfundraising

The NNW account was opened in early 2025. Members can generate donations for NNW when shopping with participating commercial organisations.

Several donations have already been received, although member participation remains relatively low.

Give a Little

NNW has joined the Give a Little community, allowing supporters to make donations through the website and mobile devices.

A number of small donations have been received so far.

Giving Lottery

NNW has also joined the Giving Lottery, through which NNW receives a small commission from tickets purchased.

Small contributions can make a big difference! If more members participate in our fundraising initiatives, NNW can put more resources directly into supporting local schemes.

Grants

Although these fundraising schemes are helpful, grants remain the most promising source of significant funding, provided the committee has sufficient time and resources to identify opportunities and submit applications.

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Remembering those we have lost

The committee recorded its sadness at the deaths of Phil Breckon, Crimestoppers Regional Manager, following a long illness; and Peter Evans, former NNW Chair. Not a lot of people know this, but Peter was a former member of the SAS and involved in the Iranian Hostage siege in 1980! A straight-talking Yorkshireman, he was also a very brave soul.

Both made significant contributions to crime prevention and community engagement in Norfolk. Their work and commitment were recognised with gratitude by the committee.

Geraldine Auston

After a year of tremendous commitment, Geraldine Auston stepped down as Deputy Chair. The AGM expressed its sincere thanks for the considerable time, effort and support Geraldine has given to NNW over the past twelve months. Thankfully, Geraldine will continue as a valued NNW Trustee and remain involved with the organisation's monthly Newsline.

Thank you, Geraldine! Your contribution has helped NNW continue to move forward during a period of significant change.

Your NNW Committee for 2026-2027

Chair	Les Rowlands — re-elected
Deputy Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Gary Nurse — re-elected
Secretary	Smriti Jha — re-elected
Administrator & IT Lead	Roke Beedell — new

No additional nominations have been received from across the NNW network. The Deputy Chair position remains vacant, and the committee would welcome interest from someone who would like to help shape the future development of NNW.

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Police update: Sgt Dan Smith

A major part of the AGM was an informative presentation from Sgt Dan Smith, NNW's new Norfolk Police Community Liaison Officer who has worked in and around Great Yarmouth for approximately 26 years. He provided an update on several important policing developments, including:

- Expect to see more visible policing
- Policing Guarantee, which is expected to increase visible police presence.
- Monitoring of officer "abstractions".
- Clear / Hold / Build approach being considered for the Middle Gate area of Great Yarmouth.

Beat Teams and Engagement Officers

Engagement Officers are increasingly being reintegrated into local Beat Teams, rather than operating exclusively in engagement roles. They will, however, continue to retain some of their previous responsibilities. The intention is to strengthen local policing while maintaining community engagement.

Technology, AI & facial recognition

The use of technology within policing continues to increase. This includes artificial intelligence, facial recognition technology, new approaches to crime analysis, targeted deployment of officers. Sgt Smith referred to efforts to reduce crime in the Norwich city centre area using these technologies.

Why reporting matters

One of the strongest messages from the police update was simple: **If something happens, report it!** It is important to report both crime and antisocial behaviour. Policing priorities are data-driven, meaning reports help to inform decisions on resource allocations. It was emphasised that resource decisions are not based solely on the number of reports. Nevertheless, accurate reporting helps the police build a clearer picture of what is happening in communities.

Reporting concerns

Members were reminded that concerns can be reported through the police website, using a postcode to help ensure that information reaches the appropriate local team. A target response time of approximately 72 hours for Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators was also mentioned.

Crimestoppers is always an option if you do not wish to disclose your details. You can reach them on 0800 555111 or visit their website: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

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Tackling Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)

Several community issues were raised during the meeting regarding reporting ASB concerns. Sgt Smith recommended that, for antisocial behaviour, residents should contact their local Beat Manager or your local Neighbourhood Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

What about Facebook & other social media platforms?

A question was raised about monitoring Facebook posts and how concerns relating to observations on social media should be reported. The advice was to use the guidance available through the police website, which explains what should be reported and which reporting channel to use.

The key message remains: Don't assume someone else has reported it. If you have a genuine concern, use the appropriate reporting channel.

Targeting high-crime areas

A new TCCG group has been established to focus on the ten highest-crime postcodes in Norfolk. This targeted approach means residents in higher-crime areas may see an increased police presence. Conversely, areas experiencing lower levels of reported crime may see fewer visible officers. This makes accurate community reporting particularly important in helping the police understand local policing needs.

Action items for NNW Coordinators & Residents

1. Report it!
Report crime and antisocial behaviour so that accurate information can inform policing priorities.
2. Contact your local team
Use your local Beat Manager, Safer Neighbourhood Team or Neighbourhood Anti-Social Behaviour Officer where appropriate.
3. Use the right channel
For social media concerns, follow the reporting guidance provided by Norfolk Police.
4. Support new schemes
NNW continues to seek funding and resources to help establish and support neighbourhood schemes.
5. To check the latest crime statistics for your region of Norfolk, visit ["Your area | Norfolk Constabulary"](#) and enter your postcode.

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The road ahead

The AGM recognised that NNW has faced significant resource, administrative and engagement challenges but there is also considerable optimism.

The new two-year partnership with OPCCN creates an opportunity to:

- Strengthen NNW's organisation
- Improve communication and publicity
- Enhance coordinator training
- Increase funding opportunities
- Build stronger partnerships
- Improve links with Norfolk Police
- Develop better digital services
- Give communities a stronger voice

The goal is to establish NNW as a stronger, better-connected and more sustainable voice for neighbourhoods across Norfolk.

Interested in being more involved? Join us on the NNW team!

Bring your unique skills and ideas!

You are part of Neighbourhood Watch because you care about your community, are interested in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and building community relationships. This is an exciting time to join the team, where you can help to shape the future direction of Neighbourhood Watch in Norfolk.

We are seeking to fill the vacant Deputy Chair role but would welcome volunteers that are interested in assisting us in other ways, too!

To express interest, reach out to us at norfolknnw.adm@gmail.com with your contact details and we will get back to you. Thank you!

Together, we can help make Norfolk safer.

Best wishes,

The Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch Team

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