



Working Together for a Safer Norfolk

Coordinator Spotlight – Trevor Bunce - Breckland

A brief conversation with Trevor and you immediately understand what led him to start a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for his community in Norfolk – volunteering and helping others is second nature to him. What started with setting up a “no cold calling zone” in his community has resulted in an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Each month, using content from Neighbourhood Watch and the police, Trevor contributes an article to his local village magazine which is distributed to 900 homes. The content that he puts together is so valued that he now provides a newsletter to the local community care centre.

Not one to sit behind his computer screen for long, Trevor is a familiar face at community events. From presenting to carers at a local community centre, the parish council, Women’s Institute and agricultural groups - he has a busy schedule. But that isn’t all, Trevor also attends village events and volunteers at the very successful agricultural show.

Trevor’s generous nature doesn’t stop at his community; he is also happy to assist other Coordinators and attends Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator meetings, helping to strengthen the network across our county.

While Trevor is clearly a generous and giving person, what makes his community work even more inspiring is that Trevor is not only nearly 85 years “young”, but he is also thriving while receiving treatment (for the past 3 years) for Stage 4 cancer. His positive attitude is motivation for all of us to help where we can. He says, that rather than sit back and feel sorry for himself, helping others has given him a purpose every day. Proof that volunteering offers just as much to the person doing the volunteering as it does for the person or community that may be on the receiving end of support.

Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch (NNW) believes that connected communities help to build resilience, reduce loneliness and discourage negative behaviours. Trevor’s dedication to his community demonstrates the difference that an NNW Scheme can make where you live.

Member or Coordinator – what’s the difference?

Neighbourhood Watch members play an important role by staying alert, looking out for neighbours, and reporting anything unusual. It’s a simple, low-commitment way to help keep the community safe.

Coordinators go one step further — they’re the main point of contact behind the scheme. Coordinators bring people together, share important updates, and help build strong links with local police and partners. Rather than just observing, they can actively shape how safe and connected their neighbourhood feels.

While it does involve a bit more time and organisation, being a Coordinator is very rewarding. You become a trusted point of contact, help solve real issues, and make a visible difference where you live. It’s an opportunity to develop leadership skills, strengthen community spirit, and take pride in creating a safer, more supportive environment.

In short, members help and Coordinators lead. Both are necessary to ensure the Neighbourhood Watch scheme can truly thrive. If you are a member, why not move into a Coordinator role? If you are already a Coordinator come to our online monthly meetings and collaborate with other Coordinators in Norfolk.

Coordinators - Join our friendly on-line Coordinator TEAMS meetings, held on the last Thursday of the month. Our next meeting is 28 May 2026 at 7pm. Check your inbox, sent to all Coordinators, for your email invitations.

Neighbourhood Watch Youth Council

Multi-Scheme Administrator, Roke spoke to us about his new role with the Youth Council:

Why did you join the Youth Council?

I wanted to provide whatever input I could, because nothing improves through apathy and non-participation.

What have you enjoyed about being a Youth Council member?

I’ve really appreciated the friendliness of the discussions, as well as the importance of the topics we explore together.

What would you tell a friend to encourage them to join the Youth Council?

I’d say that the Council is a group of like-minded yet diverse individuals who openly share ideas, offer constructive criticism, and support one another through meaningful conversations about issues that truly matter.

For more information about how young people can get involved visit:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crime-prevention/young-peoples-hub/youth-council>

Memory hole

Many will remember the strong foundations of Norfolk's Home Watch (now Neighbourhood Watch) during the 2010s. It was a highly collaborative effort, bringing together Norfolk Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Communications & Public Affairs, and the Norfolk Home Watch Association to create a strategic approach to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

The initiative aimed to build confidence among residents, reduce fear of crime, and strengthen community ties across 52 neighbourhood areas. Leadership was well structured, with Area Police Superintendents working closely with Home Watch Chairs and the area committees across the county.

Dedicated Corporate News Officers supported the programme with communication, research, and marketing expertise, while Safer Neighbourhood Teams played a vital role on the ground—offering crime prevention advice, supporting coordinators, and installing the many “Home Watch” signs still visible across Norfolk today.

In 2017, Home Watch evolved into Neighbourhood Watch, alongside wider structural changes and financial pressures. Despite reduced resources and challenges in maintaining previous levels of support, and in particular the loss of 150 Police Community Support Officers, the spirit of the initiative has endured.

Today, a committed volunteer county-wide committee strives to champion Neighbourhood Watch across Norfolk, working hard to sustain its legacy and support safer, more connected communities.

Do you have stories that you would like to share? We would love to hear about them! Get in touch at NorfolkNeighbourhoodWatch@outlook.com

What's been happening in Norfolk and around the country

Positive actions in our community

- A vigilant **taxi driver prevented an elderly resident from losing £3,000 to a scam** — a great example of how awareness and quick action protect vulnerable people.
- Police action has led to **arrests, seizures of cash**, and a **prolific shoplifter now in custody**, helping to support local shops.
- Emergency services responded quickly to a **large fire at commercial premises in Thetford**, keeping people safe.
- New measures, such as **updated dog rules in Great Yarmouth**, aim to keep shared spaces pleasant and safe for all.

Recent incidents (no ongoing risk identified)

- There have been reports of **theft from vehicles, shops and property**, and some disorder incidents currently being managed by police and courts.

- Police continue to deal firmly with misconduct and criminal behaviour, helping maintain confidence in local policing.

Trading Standards Officers - Intimidation, violence, and harassment

Trading Standards officers across the UK are facing increasing threats from organised crime groups operating behind the fronts of everyday high street businesses. A new report from the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) and the Anti-Counterfeiting Group (ACG) reveals a troubling reality:

- 97% of officers are aware of suspected organised crime activity in local shops
- Officers report intimidation, harassment, and even threats of violence
- Illegal operations range from counterfeit goods to more serious criminal enterprises

These aren't isolated incidents — they point to a widespread and growing challenge affecting communities nationwide. The report calls for urgent government investment to strengthen enforcement, protect officers, and disrupt the criminal networks exploiting UK high streets.

Trading Standards teams are on the front line of consumer protection. Ensuring they have the resources and support they need is no longer optional — it's essential.

Rural crime

Recently, the [Countryside Alliance](#) launched a new interactive rural crime map, giving rural communities like ours here in Norfolk, a new way to highlight the reality of crime in the countryside.

The map is designed to address gaps in official data, which arise because of crimes going unreported to police, by capturing real-world experiences of rural crime and displaying them in one national picture. By collating verified reports from across the UK, the map will help identify crime hotspots, reveal emerging trends and demonstrate the true scale of rural crime.

If you have experienced rural crime, we would encourage you to please share your story at "[report rural crime](#)".

Counter Terrorism

Most of us are aware of the recent events that have appeared on our TV screens, and the recent threat level in the UK being elevated to "Severe" (a terrorist attack is likely within the next 6 months). We can all play our part in community safety by being more alert. If you see something you are concerned about report it in the usual way through 999 (active situation/emergency), 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers at 0800 555 111 or online at [Giving information anonymously | Crimestoppers](#).

If you've seen or heard something that could potentially be related to terrorism, trust your instincts and report it. Your actions could save lives. You can report at [Action Counters Terrorism \(ACT\): Report suspicious activity | ProtectUK](#).

For more information on Counter Terrorism in the Eastern Region you can visit [Eastern | Counter Terrorism Policing](#).

Crime prevention — What you can do

Across the UK, Neighbourhood Watch groups are proving that community-led action still plays a powerful role in preventing crime.

From small villages to busy urban estates, volunteers are working together to keep an eye out for suspicious activity, share timely information, and support vulnerable neighbours. Their presence alone can act as a deterrent — but their real strength lies in connection and trust.

Recent examples show Neighbourhood Watch members helping to:

- ◇ Report unusual patterns linked to doorstep fraud and rogue traders
- ◇ Share alerts about vehicle crime and burglary hotspots
- ◇ Support local police with intelligence that leads to faster responses

In many areas, these groups are also embracing digital tools — using messaging apps and online platforms to circulate updates in real time and reach wider networks.

At a time when policing resources are stretched, Neighbourhood Watch schemes are helping to fill the gap — not as a replacement for law enforcement, but as a vital partner in community safety.

How neighbours can help

- Be alert to scams and talk about them with friends, family and neighbours.
- Lock vehicles, sheds and doors, and avoid leaving valuables on display.
- Report anything suspicious — even small details can help.
- Check in on elderly or vulnerable neighbours where possible.

**Neighbourhood Watch works best when we stay informed,
stay connected, and support each other.**

Thank you to everyone who helps make our area a safer and friendlier place to live.

Training and resources

Neighbourhood Watch offers resources and training for members and businesses. Whether you are a Neighbourhood Watch Association member, Coordinator, Membership Support Administrator (MSA) or Cyberhood Watch Ambassador there are many opportunities to grow your knowledge.

- The Knowledge Hub is the main portal for all registered volunteers. Register, have a look around, and add to your knowledge pool at [Our Knowledge Hub](#).

- As concerns around cybercrime grow, so does the need to grow our knowledge on how to identify and protect ourselves from the threats. Neighbourhood Watch has partnered with Avast to create '[UK Cyberhood Watch](#)'. A place to learn about the risks and even test your knowledge of cybersecurity and privacy. Interested in becoming a Cyberhood Watch Ambassador? Register your interest at [Join Cyberhood Watch](#).
- Do you run or work at a local business? Check out the interactive [FREE training for businesses](#) of all kinds from retailers, private and public sector businesses, to community groups and emergency services.

Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch needs you! Support us or lose us!

Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch is looking ahead — and with your support, we can build an even stronger future.

For years, our dedicated volunteers have helped keep communities safe by sharing vital information, supporting vulnerable residents, and acting as trusted “eyes and ears” where it matters most. [Together, we've made a real difference.](#)

Now, we have an opportunity to grow and continue that impact but we can't do it alone. Many believe we receive direct funding from the police or crime commissioner, but this is not the case. With no external funding from partner agencies, community support has never been more important to help us thrive and reach even more people.

Neighbourhood Watch plays a vital role in preventing crime, strengthening community ties, and providing reassurance to those who need it most. With your help, we can ensure this important work continues for years to come.

You can support us in many ways — through donations, partnerships, sponsorships or simply by spreading the word. Every contribution, big or small, helps us move forward.

If you believe in safer, more connected communities in Norfolk, now is the perfect time to get involved.

[Together, we can continue to protect and support the places we call home.](#)

Ways to support

[Easyfundraising](#) turns your daily shopping into free donations. Partnered with over 8,000 retailers, who will donate part of what you spend to Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch, registering and agreeing to support us won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the retailer. Visit [Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch Easyfundraising](#) to register and start supporting us through your daily shopping!

GivingLottery - Who doesn't like a win-win relationship? For as little as £1 per week, you can enter to win as much as £25,000 in the Giving Machine Lottery weekly draw. Enrolling is simple, just visit [givinglottery - norfolk neighbourhood watch](#), select your lucky numbers and decide the length of time you would like to enter for.

**We love to hear from you! Get in touch with any ideas or suggestions:
Chair-Norfolk-NW@outlook.com**

**Best wishes,
The NNW Team**

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