

NORFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLINE

Issue 06 | June 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.

Neighbourhood Watch Activities

Have Your Say – Survey feedback

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete our exclusive Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch survey. This was put together by our dedicated team of volunteers to ask questions you don't always get asked.

Each month we will share excerpts from the results of our recent survey.

Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch Survey – Community & Policing Results (June 2026)

Given the Police & Crime Commissioner elections on 16 July 2026, we thought some feedback about how neighbourhood watch members perceive our police force might be insightful.

This feedback is based on direct survey responses and quantitative data from the Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch (NNW) June 2026 survey. The focus is on perceptions, experiences, and expectations regarding community-police relations, including trust, engagement, and visibility. The following highlights both strengths and suggested areas for improvement, using specific examples from the survey to illustrate key points.

We will endeavour to provide more detailed feedback to those who participated and provided their contact details.

Key Issue: While the survey highlights that confidence in policing remains steady for many residents, there is a clear desire for greater police visibility and stronger community engagement.

Trust in the police has remained unchanged for 59% of respondents over the past two years, while 29% reported a decline and 5% said their trust had increased. Those reporting lower confidence most often cited reduced police presence and slower responses to crime.

Click on our links:
Visit our NNW website
NNW Facebook - follow us!

NORFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLINE

Issue 06 | June 2026



One respondent commented, *“Never see them, no presence,”* while another said, *“Do not respond. Burglaries and smaller crimes not followed up.”* However, many residents continue to express confidence in the police, with comments such as, *“Always a trusted service,”* and *“I have no reason to distrust the police so will continue to rely on them if needed.”*

Police visibility emerged as one of the strongest themes, with many residents saying they rarely see officers patrolling their communities, particularly in rural areas. As one respondent put it, *“I’ve never seen an officer patrol on foot in my village.”* Others welcomed occasions when officers engaged directly with the community, with one attendee at a recent meeting saying, *“Nice team introduced themselves... Pleased I attended to be honest.”*

Neighbourhood Watch partnerships continue to be highly valued. Respondents spoke positively about previous local meetings and regular police updates, with one recalling, *“We had regular meetings in the local hall... and discussed what was going on in the neighbourhood.”* Many would like to see this level of engagement return, particularly in areas experiencing persistent anti-social behaviour.

Community safety remains a concern, with 41% of respondents identifying anti-social behaviour as a problem in their area. Issues raised included drug-related activity, speeding, vandalism and intimidating behaviour by groups of young people. One resident described *“youths on bikes with balaclavas... being intimidating,”* while others noted that their communities experienced little or no anti-social behaviour.

Looking ahead, respondents would welcome **more visible neighbourhood policing**, regular drop-in sessions, improved feedback on reported incidents and clearer information about local policing priorities. Many also recognised that staffing pressures, funding constraints and a shortage of local neighbourhood watch coordinators present real challenges.

The survey also highlights examples of good practice. Where local Neighbourhood Watch coordinators are active, communication is regular—such as through WhatsApp groups—and police attend community meetings, residents report higher levels of satisfaction and confidence. As one respondent summed up, *“Better police engagement with the NHW... and some feedback if possible.”*

Click on our links:
Visit our NNW website
NNW Facebook - follow us!

NORFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLINE

Issue 06 | June 2026



Crime Statistics

Being involved in neighbourhood watch usually means you're interested in what's going on in your area.

Want to check the latest crime statistics for your region of Norfolk? Visit "[Your area | Norfolk Constabulary](#)" and enter your postcode.

Radio Norfolk

Chair, Les Rowlands, was recently on Radio Norfolk this time talking about the benefits of good liaison with local safer neighbourhood policing teams but pointing out that there are just not enough officers to go around to make it possible. As our survey points out, since the police community support officers were scrapped, an important link between community groups, like neighbourhood watch, has greatly diminished. There are not enough foot patrols, and local police stations closing has made the situation worse.

While the type of crime has evolved and the statistics and data show reductions in certain crimes, it is nevertheless entirely possible that residents just do not report low-level crime and anti-social behaviour simply because they do not want the hassle, or they don't think anything will be done about it.

Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch AGM

We have yet to set a date for our AGM, which will be virtual this year. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, we are seeking a little help and support with tasks that make our association work better; so we can continue our work to minimise crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities.

Cheryl Spruce from NW HQ is presently helping our association by holding a number of online meetings. Keep a lookout for any invitations from her and attend if you are able.

Heritage Watch

Given our previous updates about this initiative going back to 2024, we would like to let you know that we have decided to stand back from the project. Looking back, this was one of the previous commissioner's flagship projects in her police and crime plan. However, we were not invited to participate early on by either the commissioner's office or the police; instead, the project was developed without our input. Although the project has now been taken over by a senior manager, who has reached out to us, we believe it's too late for us to put our name to a project that has already been designed without us. Nevertheless, we wish the project every success.

Click on our links:
Visit our NNW website
NNW Facebook - follow us!

NORFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLINE

Issue 06 | June 2026



Police & Crime Commissioner Update

As we are all aware, Sarah Taylor resigned from her position as Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner with immediate effect, citing "family reasons". She has now taken up a new role in Yorkshire, we understand.

Police & Crime Commissioner Election

On 16th July 2026, we will vote in a new Crime Commissioner. As a neighbourhood watch member, concerned about crime and anti-social behaviour in Norfolk, we urge you to take the time to vote for whoever you believe will make a difference. Only 21% of eligible voters voted for the last PCC in 2024. Your vote matters!

Coordinator Online Drop-ins

We have been holding these drop-ins every month since the start of the year. However, those who have wanted to drop in and find out more have now done so, and reduced attendance has led us to decide to move to quarterly drop-ins. Keep an eye out for the next one later in the year. We are always happy to hear from you between meetings, please reach out directly to the team with any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns.

Royal Norfolk Show

Although Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch was not able to have a direct, visible presence at the show this year, our very own Roke Beedell was there working for our partner organisation, CRIMESTOPPERS. Even with the extreme heat, Roke made good connections, had valuable discussions and felt the experience was worthwhile.

Looking Ahead – Reminder - Key Priorities for 2026

The focus for the coming months includes:

- ✓ Improving digital communication and coordinator support
- ✓ Increasing recruitment and volunteer engagement
- ✓ Strengthening relationships with police and partner organisations
- ✓ Sharing local success stories and best practice
- ✓ Exploring new funding opportunities to support schemes
- ✓ Expanding community safety initiatives across Norfolk

Click on our links:
Visit our NNW website
NNW Facebook - follow us!

NORFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLINE

Issue 06 | June 2026



Interested in Being More Involved?

There are many ways to offer support Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch.

Whether through helping with local schemes, supporting events, joining future committee roles, or if you have your own ideas, every contribution helps build stronger and safer communities.

If you would like to become involved, please contact the team.

Giving Lottery Update

Congratulations to “Mr. W.” from Thetford who won three extra tickets in the 20th June draw!

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch through the Giving Lottery.

If you haven't signed up to the Giving Lottery yet, visit our page:

www.givinglottery.org.uk/support/norfolk-neighbourhood-watch

Best wishes,

The Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch Team

Working Together for a Safer Norfolk

Click on our links:
Visit our NNW website
NNW Facebook - follow us!