

PCC Accountability Meeting

Date: 22 July 2024

Public Questions

Public Question(s)	Norfolk Constabulary Response
<p>Having recently had the experience of my dog being attacked and injured by another dog, can you ask the Chief Constable how he can justify the response "Police don't deal with Dog-on-Dog attacks".</p>	<p>"In most cases when a dog attacks another dog it would be a civil matter under Section 2 of the Dogs Act 1871. Any action by the police would be dependent on a number of factors including the level of injury cause to the other dog, if there are any previous reported incidents involving the same dog, and whether the dog and its owner can be identified. If the injuries are significant or lethal it could result in prosecution action being taken under Section 10 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Each case will be assessed for action based on the individual circumstances.</p> <p>We have reviewed the online form submission that was referenced within this question and have identified that the correct procedure was not followed when the matter was first assessed by our Control Room, for which we apologise. We will contact the complainant to gather more information about this incident."</p>
<p>Why have Norfolk Police stopped recruiting for Special constabulary. I have applied to Norfolk police as a Special Constable. Having passed the initial assessment and going</p>	<p>Question raised by the PCC and responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 16:40 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p>

<p>through vetting I was then told that Norfolk Police had stopped recruiting for specials</p>	
<p>What practical steps have been / will be put in place to address the following:</p> <p>"In my duties as a Councillor I hear time and time again that there is 'no point' calling the Police because they either won't or can't do anything. While most of us understand that resources are stretched, we must have a PCC who strongly advocates for our communities' needs and works hard to make sure that those needs are met. That is what I am asking for the chance to do".</p>	<p>Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk response:</p> <p>"It is an honour to have been elected as Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner to serve the residents of Norfolk. Since the election on 2 May 2024, I have immersed myself in the world of policing and crime both at a local level here in the county and nationally, through the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.</p> <p>In terms of local meetings, in July, I attended the Great Yarmouth Town Board, listening to presentations about the work that has been done so far to create a long-term, ten-year plan for the town. The Plan will unlock funding from central government to deliver more for communities in Great Yarmouth. I will endeavour to attend other town boards across the county in due course.</p> <p>In June, I had the pleasure to welcome Norfolk and Suffolk's Independent Custody Visitors to the Independent Custody Visitors Association Conference. ICVs do phenomenal work to check on detainees' welfare and ensure that people are treated with dignity and respect.</p> <p>Also in June, I attended an Independent Advisory Group (IAG) meeting. It was a fantastic opportunity to start to get to know members and their work. Whether it's case reviews, work on the stop-and-search panel or everything in between, our volunteers make a really substantial difference.</p>

	<p>The role of governance and scrutiny are key parts of my role and I have already sat on my first Audit Committee and am aware of the challenges we face with finite funding and important resources to maintain.</p> <p>I am working closely with the Chief Constable to further understand the operational challenges in the county and how we work together to develop a Police and Crime Plan in consultation with key stakeholders and the residents of Norfolk.</p> <p>The Police and Crime Plan consultation will commence in September for a period of eight weeks. I, therefore, ask the panel to consider an Extraordinary Panel Meeting in January 2025 to receive the results of the consultation and a draft plan.</p> <p>My first public PCC Accountability Meeting took place at the end of July. The meeting provides me with the platform to pose questions submitted by people from across Norfolk to the county's Chief Constable and senior police officers and hears updates on the force's progress on policing priorities.</p> <p>This meeting garnered a lot of questions from the public which was most encouraging, and I think indicates that engagement with Norfolk residents is beginning to work well. I fully intend on building on this and encouraging more people to submit questions going forward too, to make sure that these accountability meetings are meaningful.</p> <p>Public engagement is a key priority and, once I am fully briefed on the county's policing and crime prevention, I plan to be out and about as much as possible to talk with people across Norfolk, listen and take on board concerns, and witness for myself the effects on the ground. In July, I spent</p>
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	<p>a Friday evening out with beat managers in Dereham where I was taken on a tour of potential Anti-Social Behaviour hotspots and I anticipate doing many more of these types of visits, as well as visits to local organisations and community meetings in the near future.”</p>
<p>I would like to know if the Chief Constable has any plans to create a stalking unit. My daughter and 3 others were victims of cyber stalking 1. Norfolk police failed to put in place Stalking Protection Orders when perpetrator charged 2. Daughter was initially ignored on first reporting the stalking and identifying stalker.</p> <p>These issues would have not arisen had Norfolk had a dedicated stalking unit. (See Cheshire Police for good practise.)</p>	<p>Question raised by the PCC and responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 27:09 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p>
<p>We have a big problem with speeding, noisy motorcycles on our local roads, in our forests and ripping up our local sports fields. One thing the vast majority of these motor cyclists have in common is that they make their number plates impossible to read, which is illegal. Facing up, facing down, too small overall, small numbering etc. There are fixed rules with regard to motorcycle number plates, why are these not enforced on Norfolk roads? As a speed watcher of 6 years, I have seen this problem getting worse. There is a large hard core of unaccountable, do as we please, motor cyclists who know the rules are not for them. Would they be so keen to appear in dash cam footage, in photos taken by fed up residents, or pass fellow speed watchers at high speed if they could be traced? The number of motorcycle related deaths and serious injuries in Norfolk goes up each year. I would ask you next time you are passed by a speeding bike to check the number plate you will see</p>	<p>“We encourage the public to report any concerns relating to motorcycle usage, both on and off the public highway to us.</p> <p>Dashcam or other footage that has been recorded of driving offences and/or anti-social behaviour involving motor vehicles can be submitted to the Constabulary via the Operation Snap link on our public website:</p> <p>Making a road traffic incident report Norfolk Constabulary</p> <p>Any footage that is submitted will be reviewed, with consideration given to prosecuting drivers who might otherwise have gone unreported for offences committed due to lack of evidence. Last year almost 3000 submissions were made to Operation Snap in Norfolk, which is a 52% increase since inception in 2019.</p>

what I mean. I have spoken to officers who feel this problem is low priority. I feel this is literally a fatal mistake.

We recognise that motorcyclists are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users in Norfolk, making up 23% of all roads related casualties last year. We regularly capture evidence of speeding motorcyclists and in many cases, they are traced and dealt with appropriately. Officers will also deal with illegible obscured index plates as well as matters relating to motorcycles being ridden on land other than a road.

Wider engagement with the motorcycle community to improve road safety takes place through initiatives, including 'Two Wheel Tuesday', which is led by the Constabulary's Road Safety Reduction Team, who predominantly deploy on marked motorcycles. We also offer Safe Rider courses to encourage safe and responsible riding.

Our Safer Neighbourhood Teams hold regular priority setting meetings which provide a forum for members of the public to raise concerns about local crime and antisocial behaviour related matters. Dates and locations of meetings, along with contact details local for local policing team are on our public website. We would encourage members of the public to attend these meeting to raise any issues that they have.

Residents in more rural areas of the Great Yarmouth district have reported concerns about the anti-social off-road use of motorcycles to us. In response, local Beat Managers are working with landowners to identify problem-solving measures that can be implemented, including fencing-off areas, making tracks more difficult to pass, and using trail cams to capture offenders.

Problem solving activity in other parts of the Great Yarmouth district to address the anti-social use of vehicles includes the installation of an acoustic recognition camera which is activated by, and tracks vehicles that

	<p>are creating high levels of noise, usually through the manner of driving. This camera has Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) capabilities and has captured motorbikes being ridden in an anti-social manner. Using evidence collated by the camera, the local Safer Neighbourhood Team are working with Great Yarmouth Borough Council to bring prosecutions under a Public Space Protection Order which has been obtained.</p> <p>In other parts of Great Yarmouth, the local Safer Neighbourhood Team have engaged with business owners to support them to make improvements to their CCTV and how it is operated to capture evidence of vehicles, including motorbikes, being used in an anti-social manner. Through this approach motorists have been prosecuted, warned, and educated about the dangers of their behaviours.”</p>
<p>On numerous occasions I have followed a very long queue of vehicles following a slow-moving agricultural tractor/vehicle. The rules/ common sense as I understand are that if a tractor has 6 or more vehicles following it, it is supposed to pull in the first layby etc to let vehicles pass. I have several times followed tractors from Hilgay to Kings Lynn and the tractors have passed several lay-byes a minimum of 10. And have witnessed impatient cars pull out to overtake when vehicles are coming from opposite direction, nearly causing Road Traffic Collisions. One day these tractor drivers are going to cause a major incident. It only needs the TCto instruct police officers when witnessing this behaviour from tractor drivers to either stop them and tick them off/ give them a ticket for Driving Without Due Care and Attention for Other Road Users. The word would soon spread among tractor drivers and the roads would be much safer for all of us. It just</p>	<p>“Rule 169 of the Highway Code states – ‘Do not hold up a long queue of traffic, especially if you are driving a large or slow-moving vehicle. Check your mirrors frequently, and if necessary, pull in where it is safe and let traffic pass’.</p> <p>Failure to follow this rule can result in a charge of Inconsiderate Driving which could lead to a penalty of three to nine points, and fines of up to £5,000.</p> <p>There is no hard and fast rule in place around what constitutes a long queue of traffic, and no number of vehicles is specified in the Highway Code.</p> <p>The Constabulary recommends that drivers of tractors and other slow-moving agricultural vehicles should pull over when it is safe and reasonable to do so. Likewise, other road users are encouraged to be patient when held behind a slow-moving vehicle, especially on rural or single carriageway roads.</p>

<p>seems that a lot of tractor drivers think orange flashing lights on top of their cabs, allow them to ignore other road users.</p>	<p>The Commercial Vehicle Unit, which was established in January 2023, provides specialist enforcement, knowledge, and investigative capability in respect of commercial vehicle activity. The officers on this team engage with agricultural businesses and haulage companies in relation to road and vehicle safety issues. In 2023/24 the Commercial Vehicle Unit stopped 1605 commercial vehicles, issued 1320 Traffic Offence Reports, detected 1633 offences, prohibited 246 vehicles, and issued fines which totalled just under £200,000.</p> <p>Dashcam or other footage that has been recorded of driving offences involving agricultural vehicles can be submitted to the Constabulary via the Operation Snap link on our public website:</p> <p>Making a road traffic incident report Norfolk Constabulary</p> <p>Any footage that is submitted will be reviewed, with consideration given to prosecuting drivers who might otherwise have gone unreported for offences committed due to lack of evidence.”</p>
<p>How are Autistic people such as myself supposed to cope with the abject and widespread lack of explanation about what to expect from the Court process?</p> <p>I would also like to know how strong the links are with NHS NSFT because I think NSFT staff would benefit from enhanced training in the legal definition of crimes they’re likely to hear about regularly in their practice. They should be educated on the basics of police investigations and court proceedings, as this will prevent them giving bad/inconsistent advice and hopefully improve the rates at which their patients come forward about crimes.</p>	<p>Question raised by the PCC and responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 32:41 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p> <p>Please note that there was an additional element to this question concerning a job vacancy at the Office of the Police and Commissioner, which contained personal details, so has been responded to in writing via email.</p>

<p>Why is the car based antisocial behaviour and dangerous driving PSPO that applies across Norwich not being enforced? The police have attended multiple incidents where the PSPO has been breached but as yet nobody has been brought to court for breaching the order.</p>	<p>Question raised by the PCC and responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 5:26 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p>
<p>The PSPO on Britannia Road was initially effective in reducing but not ending anti-social driving. However, residents are experiencing an increase in reckless, anti-social and dangerous driving. What other measures can be taken that do not put the burden of reporting onto a community who have been raising this for 20+ years?</p> <p>Whilst reporting remains the only option given to the community, what system should this be done through? Residents have been given conflicting advice on this. We would also like to remind the police that asking us to film the vehicles is both impractical given their speed and also raises safety concerns.</p>	<p>Question raised by the PCC and responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 5:26 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p>
<p>Since the introduction of the PSPO there has been a decrease in ASB activity in Britannia Road, however, it still takes place almost nightly and as a minimum breaches Appendix B. 5(i):</p> <p>"Congregating in a group of at least three persons in or around two or more stationary motor vehicles, causing or being likely to cause a nuisance..."</p> <p>Section 39: "...the escalation and enforcement model is;"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage and educate - warning letter. • Further breach – evidence and statements to Norwich City Council. 	<p>Question raised by the PCC and responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 5:26 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norwich City Council – Community Safety team to decide upon serving a Fixed Penalty Notice and any subsequent prosecution. <p>My question:</p> <p>Bearing in mind the constant breaches of the whole of appendix B, aside from 'engaging' what action has been taken as per the above model to prevent further breaches? i.e., how many warning letters and/or fixed penalties have been issued?</p>	
<p>Apparent non-engagement with “Ecocide”: destruction of historic heritage hedgerows. Removal of valuable wildlife habitat & environmental resource.</p> <p>Local history of seeming unwillingness / inability of Norfolk’s finest to deal effectively with the above.</p> <p>Of course, there’s empathy for scarce Police resources plus the geographical area to cover.</p> <p>Unauthorised Hedgerow Removal.</p> <p>A criminal offence under 1991 Hedgerow Regulations, amongst other proscriptions.</p> <p>Scene Information available with me as/if needed.</p>	<p>“Hedgerows are protected under The Hedgerows Regulations 1997, if they meet certain criteria. This legislation is enforced by the Local Planning Authority and unauthorised removal of protected hedgerows could lead to a prosecution by the Local Planning Authority. Concerns about the cutting or removal of hedgerows should therefore be reported to your Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>There are further implications if the hedgerow falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is stated within the stipulations, which could mean that it is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Whilst the Police are the enforcing agency for Wildlife and Countryside Act legislation, Natural England deal with Section 28 of the Act which relates to works affecting a Site of Special Scientific Interest.</p> <p>The Constabulary also recognises that hedgerow cutting, and hedgerow removal can result in disturbance and destruction of protected species, including nesting birds, which may constitute a criminal offence.</p> <p>We have specialist Wildlife Officers who work in partnership with both Local Planning Authorities and Natural England, taking a joint approach when matters of concern are reported to the Constabulary.</p>

	<p>Concerns can be reported via 101 or by making an online report on via our public website: Tell us about a possible wildlife or rural crime Norfolk Constabulary”</p>
<p>I would like to know why it takes so long for domestic abuse cases to be dealt with. It is my understanding that there has been extra funding to help with these matters and yet they are still taking too long to go to court. I reported my former partner, and I am still waiting for the CPS to finalise their charging decision nearly 30 months after first reporting it. I have had to constantly chase my case with the police. A victim of a serious crime should not have to do this. I shouldn't have this overhanging me for so long. It's adding trauma on top of the trauma I have already been through.</p>	<p>Question raised by the PCC and responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 1:48:26 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p>
<p>All of my questions relate to Britannia Road, NR1</p> <p>Last year I was hit by a car speeding down the road (my arm was clipped by the wing mirror while I was unloading my own car) and verbally abused and threatened by the owner of the car that hit me. The officer I reported the incident to told me two very concerning things:</p> <p>Firstly, that this was partially my fault due to the way my car was parked – which was apparently on the wrong side of the road, facing the wrong way. If this is the case, then why isn't the correct way to park enforced? And why are residents forced to park in whatever space is available, due to the lack of permitting and the fact the road is two-way road (Britannia Road should clearly be one-way).</p>	<p>Question raised by the PCC and responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 5:26 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p>

<p>Secondly, I was told that the police and council are unlikely to do anything to resolve the issues Britannia Road faces until someone is killed by a speeding car. Why, when the residents have been trying for years to make changes to the road, must they have to wait until there's a death on the road?</p> <p>During a football match day, why is it acceptable for Britannia Road to be used as match day parking for an unreasonable amount of people, making it dangerous for residents and clogging up the viewing point car park?</p> <p>Why do the police continue to allow the viewing point at Britannia Road to be overrun by cars racing up and down Britannia Road, cars and people eroding the verges, cars and people blocking the road, and in general, allowing it to remain a dangerous place to visit, despite their being a PSPO in place? I've attached a screengrab of a recent comment from Reddit – someone was asking for the best view of the city. As you can see, the area has an awful reputation.</p>	
<p>Have you any plans for tackling speeding. In particular is speeding through villages. This problem is not being confronted with any sense of seriousness, necessity or urgency. Drivers will continue flaunting speed limits as long as their actions do not impact on them regardless of the negative impact on the safety and quality of life of the communities they speed through. Exceeding speed limits is against the law but no one in a position to do something positive about it seems to care.</p>	<p>Question raised by the PCCand responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 2:25:40 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p>

<p>What incentive is there for people to join the police and stay in the job as they face high stress, trauma and dangerous situations as part of their daily role?</p> <p>Personally, I don't understand why criminals appear to have so many rights e.g., if they get injured trying to evade arrest, the police officers attending may be investigated for wrongdoing. I've seen it time and time again on the news, in my opinion and I would think that of most law-abiding citizens is, if people chose a life of crime, then they deserve everything they get! It also makes me angry to see comments from the public on social media, criticising the police, if only they knew the truth.</p>	<p>Question raised by the PCC and responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 20:24 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p>
<p>Further to my brief chat with the Chief Constable, Paul Sandford on road safety and rural speeding, I ask of his subsequent thoughts with regard to implementing Suffolk's speeding initiative in Norfolk. A system whereby a fully portable Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system is linked to Speed Indicator Device (SID), which gives the driver a speed warning and the opportunity to slow down before a photographic record of the vehicle and its speed is taken. Each unit is fully portable can be attached to an existing SAM2 pole and only costs £6,000. Suffolk is trialling 10 of these as set out in this article: https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/22812843.400k-mobile-number-plate-recognition-system-launched-across-suffolk/</p> <p>Westcotec in East Dereham Norfolk make this equipment and have the full background to my enquiries last year.</p> <p>My concern arises from the articulated lorries & private traffic speeding through villages, who know that they will never be</p>	<p>"We take speeding on Norfolk's roads seriously and together with our partners assess initiatives that might help to improve road safety.</p> <p>We are aware of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) pilot in Suffolk, funded by the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership. Through a grant obtained from the Road Safety Trust the partnership commissioned an evaluation of the pilot to assess if it had been effective at reducing speeding.</p> <p>The report has recently been published with the main conclusion being that there was no detectable impact of ANPR SIDs in reducing neither speed nor the proportion of speeding vehicles at the sites where the technology was deployed.</p> <p>The implementation of a similar initiative in Norfolk would be a matter for our local Road Safety Camera Partnership to consider."</p>

<p>caught, so drive with impunity. So, it is left to members of the public to challenge readily identifiable farmers, contractors, transport managers of bulk hauliers, LPG & oil tankers over these matters and reinforce with a suitable piercing glare later.</p> <p>Community Speed watch is not effective in catching the gross offenders; whilst I have given up on the local police, the North Walsham Station is locked shut 9-5 anyway.</p>	
<p>Given that some prime commuting desire line roads, such as the B1145 through Bawsey, are regarded as too dangerous for police cyclists to ride as part of an Operation Close Pass, is there anything the PCC can do, alone or with other organisations, to make such roads safe enough for police and the public to cycle on?</p>	<p>Question raised by the PCC and responded to within the meeting by the Chief Constable. This can be found at minute 12:27 of the PCC Accountability Meeting recording.</p>