

I propose the following priorities for Norfolk:

- **Rebuilding trust in neighbourhood policing;**
- **Preventing violence, abuse, and exploitation;**
- **Supporting safer rural communities.**

Is there anything I have missed, or should be included that isn't being addressed?

No.

We would, however, place greater emphasis on **supporting rural communities** and would specifically include **rebuilding trust within those communities** as part of that priority. A more defined definition of what these priorities are and how that would be achieved would be useful.

The police presence and accessibility within our community has gradually eroded over time to the point where it is now almost non-existent. Before Covid, we knew our local beat manager and they regularly attended parish council meetings and, in particular, attended our annual meetings. This provided an opportunity for direct communication, allowed local concerns to be raised informally, and helped establish a relationship between the police and the community.

With the final removal of the SNAP meeting format, this regular community interaction with our beat manager has essentially ended.

Rebuilding trust is not simply a matter of providing a telephone number or identifying a named officer as a point of contact. Communities need the opportunity to engage regularly with someone who knows the area, understands its particular issues and has direct experience of policing within the community. This is, of course, also benefits the police, since it enables information sharing and gathering at a very local level without the need for a formal approach. **Trust is built through visibility, continuity and relationships over time.**

We would therefore like to see the rural communities priority specifically recognise the importance of a consistent, visible and accessible local policing presence, with meaningful opportunities for parish councils and residents to engage directly with their local policing team. This would include, not just attendance at community events – such as Parish Council meetings, but also the re-instatement of regular police patrols.

Would you be willing to pay more in next year's council tax precept to be prepared to respond to local and national threats, maintaining the capacity and capability required to meet strategic policing responsibilities while continuing to deliver high-quality local services?

No.

The parish council recognises the importance of ensuring that Norfolk Constabulary has the capacity and capability to respond effectively to both local and national threats. However, we would not support an increase in the council tax precept without greater clarity about the proposed level of increase, how the additional funding would be allocated, and the measurable benefits that residents and rural communities would receive as a result.

In particular, given our concerns about the erosion of visible and accessible neighbourhood policing in rural communities, we would want to see clear evidence that any additional funding would contribute to restoring meaningful local policing presence, engagement and accessibility, rather than simply increasing overall capacity without a corresponding improvement in local services.

We would therefore welcome greater detail on the proposed use of any additional precept before being able to support an increase.