

bbc.co.uk

Home TV Radio Talk Where I Live A-Z Index

Search

29 April 2007
[Accessibility help](#)
[Text only](#)

BBC
 Homepage
 England

»London
 News
 Sport
 Weather
 Travel

Entertainment
 Features
 In Pictures
 Faith
 2012 Olympics
 London Local

Abolition

Radio
 Television

Site Contents

Contact Us

Like this page?
 Send it to a friend!

ON RADIO 94.9FM

BBC
 LONDON

ON TV BBC ONE

ONLINE bbc.co.uk/london

HAVERING AND BARKING & DAGENHAM

You are in: [London](#) > [TV and Radio](#) > [London Local](#) > [Havering and Barking & Dagenham](#) > Motorbike mania hits Barking

Motorbike mania hits Barking

Lebo Diseko

It was a problem that plagued the community on the Thames View Estate. Children riding motorbikes illegally keeping other residents up and generally causing trouble.

But now a new community project – a mobile mechanics workshop- is tackling the problem.

Twelve kids get to don their overalls and learn all about bikes- from mechanics, to safety on the road. They're also given the chance to get their provisional license.

It's the first scheme of its kind in the country.

Mark Riches, whose company provides the bikes and equipment for the project, says he wants to engage children positively, to help keep them off the street.

An ex-offender himself, he says often there just isn't enough for young people to do, which leads many into activities they shouldn't be involved in:

"My aim is to give young people something to do ... something constructive, and to give them the time to get together ... work together ... and understand motorcycles, [and] road safety"

The project is the result of local people and the police working together.

Residents worried about the behaviour of some youths, raised their concerns with the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

The police then joined forces with Mark's company Orbit training, and the council, to get the scheme going. They've even had support from the Salvation Army and other local churches.

Police Sergeant Simon Whalley, who's safer neighbourhood team helped come up with the scheme, says it's already had positive results, with no reported incidents of children loitering or causing trouble on the nights the workshop runs.

Sergeant Whalley told BBC London: "This is an unprecedented opportunity to turn around the lives of local teenagers, by molding the genuine interest they have in bikes into a constructive activity."

The scheme runs for five weeks, during which time it's funded by the council.



SEE ALSO

[Watch video report about the project](#)

Audio and Video links on this page require Realplayer

[Havering and Barking & Dagenham London Local](#)

[On the rest of the web Metropolitan police](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites

[an error occurred while processing this directive]

Sergeant Whalley and his team are currently trying to raise money so that they can keep the scheme going over the next year.

If you would like to contribute funds to the project please contact Sergeant Simon Whalley at Thames Ward, on 020 8649 3529.

To watch more about this scheme click on the link below.

 [Watch video report about the project >](#)

Audio and Video links on this page require [Realplayer](#)

last updated: 04/02/07

SEE ALSO

[Havering and Barking & Dagenham
London Local](#)

You are in: [London > TV and Radio > London Local > Havering and Barking & Dagenham](#) > Motorbike mania hits Barking



[HOME](#) [EMAIL](#) [PRINT](#)



[TOP](#)

[SITE CONTENTS](#)

BBC London, PO Box 94.9, Marylebone High St. London W1A 6FL.
Tel: 020 7224 2424 | Textphone: (for the hearing impaired) 020 7935 7414
e-mail: yourlondon@bbc.co.uk

[About the BBC](#) | [Help](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy & Cookies Policy](#)