

THE PROBLEM.

Complaints have been received from residents in this area about the activities of illegal motorcyclists using public and private land, causing noise nuisance and driving dangerously.

The purpose of this leaflet is to inform you of the legislation covering this activity as the following two types of vehicle will be under increased surveillance in this area, motorcycles and MPV's (Mechanically Propelled Vehicles). MPV's include trials bikes, quad bikes, mini motorcycles and petrol driven scooters.

WHERE ARE YOU RIDING?

If you are riding on private land without the permission of the landowner, you are committing an offence and can be prosecuted for trespass and sued for any damage caused to the land.

It is against the local byelaws to ride a motorcycle on Leeds City Council land. Any rider commits an offence, and each person shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine of upto £500. However, you can still be sued and taken to court for any damage caused to the land.

HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

If you use public highways to get to your riding destination you should be aware that: As well as the carriageway, FOOTPATHS alongside roads are part of the road. Pushing a motorcycle along the footpaths means it is on the road.

If you own a motorcycle or moped you will need the following for your vehicle to be legal: a current driving licence, insurance, tax and

registration, test certificate and the vehicle to be street legal (in good working order).

If you own an MPV which has not been adapted for use on the road (for e.g. has no indicators, lights, horn, speedometer etc.) You still require insurance even if you are pushing it along the pavement to get to your riding destination.

WHAT FUEL DO YOU USE?

Petrol must not be supplied to a person under the age of 16 and petrol must be supplied in a suitable container.

Please Note:

If parents are the owners of a motorcycle, it can be classed as aiding and abetting if they permit the illegal use of a motorcycle. Even if a parent buys petrol for an illegal motorcycle, they can be aiding and abetting the rider to commit offences. Owners can be prosecuted in addition to riders.

PARKSWATCH OFFICERS

Patrol on motorcycles in parks and open spaces and promote safety and welfare of parks users. They are also there to prevent crime and anti social behaviour and have video cameras on their motorcycles. Film from the video cameras can sometimes be used to gather evidence and can be passed to the police.

ARE YOU CAUSING NUISANCE?

Under the Police Reform Act, the Police now have new powers to seize motor vehicles that are being used to cause alarm, distress, or **annoyance to members of the public!** Repeat offenders are warned that they may have their motor vehicle taken from them and disposed of AND they may have to pay the cost

of recovery, which is generally in the region of £200.

Parents should be aware that they are liable to pay recovery costs of any cycle seized from their child. **THINK TWICE before you let your child out on that bike!**

Furthermore Leeds City Council's Environmental Health Department has powers under s.79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to take the following action. Following the service of a Legal Notice for noise nuisance, it may be possible to seize the offender's motorcycle and take prosecution proceedings in which **the owner/rider could be fined up to £5,000.** Please Note: If the Environmental Health Department seize the bike they do **NOT** have to return it!

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT

Are working closely with the Police, ParksWatch, Environmental Health and Housing Associations and ALMO's to prevent unwanted riding in this area. They are able to take enforcement action such as ASBO's, ASBE's, and in some cases Notice to Seek Possession Orders, resulting in eviction.

THE DANGERS

People have been KILLED during recent years riding illegal motorcycles. This is besides the danger caused to other road users and pedestrians. A person who rides a motorcycle dangerously and injures or kills someone else – a passenger, another road user or pedestrian – faces possible imprisonment.

**REMEMBER CRASH HELMETS ARE
REQUIRED BY LAW.
THEY CAN SAVE THE LIFE OF THE
WEARER.**

Legal Motorcycling.

Driving Licence

A driving licence is needed to ride a motorcycle. Learners cannot ride a motorcycle over 125cc until passing a test, unless over 21 years of age and on a Direct Access course.

Insurance

A motorcycle needs insurance to be in any public place, whether the motorcycle is being ridden or only being pushed on a road.

Test Certificate

Test Certificates are needed for motorcycles over three years old. This applies if the motorcycle is being ridden, or only being pushed, on a road.

Tax and Registration

To be on a road, a motorcycle needs a registration number. It also needs a tax disc, even if it is only being pushed.

MOTORCYCLE HOTLINE

If you have any information about persons committing these offences or where they live, please contact :

ASB Hotline: 0113 398 4701

or

Crimestoppers: 0800 55 55 111

Any information will be treated in the strictest confidence.



**ILLEGAL MOTORCYCLING CAN BE
FATAL**

IT CAN BE EXPENSIVE IN FINES

**YOUR MOTORCYCLE MAY BE
CONFISCATED**

IT CAN LEAD TO IMPRISONMENT



**WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE**

RESPONSIBLE

RIDING



**AN ADVICE LEAFLET FOR RIDERS OF
MOTORCYCLES AND MPV'S
(Mechanically Propelled Vehicles)**

