

# NUISANCE MOTORBIKES AND QUADS TIME LIMITED ACTION PLAN



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# Introduction

- In County Durham the problem of off-road vehicles being used in an anti social manner has been frequent and widespread.
- This is a common problem in many other areas across the north-east area.
- Off road nuisance and uninsured vehicles remains an issue. Reports are still coming in regarding off-road vehicles for several areas, with fences damaged, boulders moved etc to gain access;
- This has impacted on crime statistics though we do want to encourage further reporting on these issues.



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# Operation Endurance

- In 2017 Durham Constabulary launched, Operation Endurance, an initiative to tackle the problems caused by off road vehicles. The following link provides access to an interview on Radio Tees following its launch <https://www.facebook.com/OpEndurance-1737404783233418/>
- This is a multi-agency approach involving the Police, Council and organisations such as the Woodlands & National Trust. The regulation of offenders is primarily through road traffic legislation that allows the Police to make arrests and seize vehicles such as in the case of untaxed, uninsured or unroadworthy vehicles or where individuals are unlicensed, underage, or driving in an unsafe or anti social manner.



# Operation Endurance

- Officers of our Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions Team and Nuisance Action Team will assist the Police in tackling this issue wherever possible. This may include gathering intelligence, considering the wider issues, enforcement action or helping deter younger offenders from such illegal activities.
- The multi agency approach to the problem and installation of target hardening measures has made a difference;
- For example, in a recent operation in the Esh Winning area, 11 vehicles were stopped and were reported for consideration for prosecution under the Coronavirus regulations. Target hardening is effective in the area in which it is installed however, it is thought that this often leads to a dispersal of the problem to other areas and leads to the need for further multi agency enforcement and interventions.



# Powers

- The powers used to deal with off-road vehicle nuisance is included in the Safe Durham Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Escalation Procedure and includes the following –
  - a. **Traffic 183** notices may be issued by Police Constables (P.C's), Police Community Support Officers (P.C.S.O's) and Neighbourhood Wardens; This is a warning to riders/passengers of mechanically propelled vehicles ridden in an anti-social manner on public land.
  - b. **Issue of a Traffic 184** notice by P.C's and P.C.S.O's to riders/ passengers of mechanically propelled vehicles ridden in an anti-social manner on public land who have already been issued with a Traffic 183 within the past 12 months; Traffic 184 notices provide officers the power to seize and recover the vehicle in question, and a 'release fee' is incurred by the owner if they reclaim it from the recovery company.
  - c. **Normal Police powers** regarding traffic offences i.e. No insurance, licence, MOT, Tax etc.
  - d. **CPW's CPN's** on both land owners and riders.
  - e. **The possibility of implementing Public Space Protection orders** in certain areas or County wide and the use of FPN's and further court action around this by both Police and local authority.
- Work with housing providers in relation to tenancies for those involved where appropriate and tenancy enforcement may also be taken.



# Challenges

The following problems are encountered when dealing with off-road vehicle nuisance -

Lack of information/intelligence in relation to perpetrators, including where vehicles may be stored.

Unable to identify riders/ drivers – this can be due to lack of CCTV, no registration plates on vehicles (or vehicles are stolen), riders are masked, and we are often unable to identify those involved.

There seems to be a ready supply of vehicles – even when we do remove them, they are replaced very quickly.

Vehicles are used in criminality not just anti social behaviour.



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# Challenges

There are links to arson (stolen vehicles burnt out)

Damage is caused to land as a result of the driving over land – and sometimes to buildings and other vehicles.

There are numerous areas which are easily accessible and often used repeatedly. If the land is classed as “surplus” and there is no budget to address the problems and provide target hardening.

Interventions such as ‘double ditching’ the access is very costly (up to £6k for a small area), this would be done in conjunction with a tree planting scheme – a longer term initiative to cover a large amount of the land. There is no ring-fenced budget for this work.

Sustrans Line – provides a means of access to bikes/quads across a wide area, from Sunderland through Seaham, Shotton and beyond.



# TLP Objectives 01/08/21 – 31/10/21

- To raise awareness of Operation Endurance and encourage people to report nuisance vehicles.
- To discourage others in using their vehicles illegally, through open enforcement.
- To reduce incidents of illegal off-road vehicle nuisance



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# Key Messages

- The improper use of motorbikes, moped and quads is illegal
- They are a public nuisance
- Often linked to other crimes and disorder
- Often cause damage and are uninsured
- Risk to public safety



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# 18 Key Actions – some examples

- Analyse data/hotspot areas
- Use of all enforcement powers
- Gather intelligence
- Deploy 'high zoom' cameras and body worn video/drones
- Crimestoppers campaign and 'day of action'
- Operation Endurance in target areas
- Comms plan
- Reinstate Garage Watch



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# Outcomes

- Target hardening work totalling £90,900 prior to TLP
- Facebook -If you have any information regarding the use of off-road bikes in your area, if you know who is riding them or where they are being stored, please get in touch with us and let us know. You can help us get these bikes and riders out of our communities.
- We won't stop 'til they do.
- [#PoliceAndCommunitiesTogether](#) [#PeterleeNPT](#)"



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# Outcomes

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Signage erected by Safer Communities Officer in Eldon hot spot area.



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# Outcomes

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Deployment of 'high zoom' cameras to identify offenders/vehicles

Partnership involvement from 16 key interest groups and partners

40 Partners involved in the TLP



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# Outcomes

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- Off Road bikes - heat mapping highlights the Western area of Aycliffe as being the hot spot area of Aycliffe. However, this issue also effects most areas of the town.
- Recently acquired E Bikes funded by GAMP to actively patrol these areas. The bikes are a huge asset to the team and enable us to patrol the areas that these bike access that regular patrols cannot. The bikes also enable us to be able to hear the off-road bikes and then direct our patrols accordingly. They have covered on average 15 miles per shift and have resulted in the seizure of 2 off road bikes

