

Councillors Carol Birchmore, Cllr Donald Berry, Cllr Andrea Booth, Cllr Des Duncalfe, Cllr Glyn Marsden, Cllr Ken Simpson, Cllr Mike Smith and Cllr Mary Walsh.

The Council notes the numbers of illegally modified high power electric bicycles is increasing and causing concern to the public.

In an early Day Motion put forward by Rachael Maskell M.P. on 10th of march this year, the following points were put forward.

Serious concerns in the rise in illegally modified e-bikes and e-scooters, which pose serious safety risks to riders and pedestrians; it recognises that altering speed and power limits compromises road safety regulations and is a serious risk to the wider public.

The EDM has received cross party signatures.

Islington Council have successfully prosecuted a local trader for importing almost 1000 non-U.K. compliant e:bikes and scooters. Testing commissioned by the council revealed serious safety issues with the machines. In January 2025 the importer was given a suspended 6-month custodial sentence.

In this motion we are not talking about the benign ordinary machines, these are limited by law to around 15mph and must have a motor no bigger than 250 watts. Motors are available in various sizes. 2000-watts would bring a maximum speed of up to 40 mph, a 10000-watt motor would equate to around 70 mph

Many of us would be horrified when looking at the accident figures for these machines. There were 1411 collisions involving e:bikes and e scooters in 2022 resulting in 1502

injuries and 12 deaths. 29 people died in between 2020 and 2023 in 4515 e scooter and bike collisions in the U.K.

These machines are more akin to electric motorcycles but of course are ridden with no driving licence, insurance, road tax, or MOT. At the speeds these machines are modified to the potential of harm to innocent members of the public is huge.

Of course, the riders of these illegal machines are not known for obeying the rules of the road, passing through red lights, riding across mini roundabouts or indeed riding at speed along pavements with pedestrian traffic on.

The Police do their best to catch these offenders but are limited in their rules of engagement. I believe that the police should be given more powers to take these machines off the road.

The Council is resolved too.

The Council: To Write to both our MPs North and South asking them to inquire about problems of uninsured illegal e:bikes and scooters and asking if they will sign the early day motion, about these illegal modifications.

The Council: To Write to the chief Constable to enquire about all measures, the police force may be able to undertake, to remove these illegal machines from our streets.

The Council: To write to Trading Standards, to ask if they believe suitable information is given out by suppliers of these machines, stating these machines should not be used on public roads.