

THINK! BIKE BAGS

An initiative to make motorcyclists more visible to motorists, and motorists more aware of bikers is being promoted by the Road Safety Team at Bucks County Council.

Fluorescent backpacks bearing the logo `THINK BIKE` have been distributed to motorcycle dealerships and training schools in Buckinghamshire.

The bags are given free of charge to riders. The initiative is part of the ongoing `Be a Better Biker` campaign aimed at reducing fatal and serious injury motorcyclist collisions in Buckinghamshire.

The bike backpacks also support the recent DfT Television, Radio and poster campaigns encouraging drivers to take longer to look for bikes.

If you would like a free backpack please contact us directly.



Contacts

Phone: 01296 382450

Email: motorbikes@buckscc.gov.uk

Web: www.buckscc.gov.uk/beabetterbiker

ADVANCED TRAINING

For attendees of `Be a Better Biker` assessment days over the past three years.

The Bucks `Be a Better Biker` events have now finished for this year and once again they have proven to be very popular with bikers.

Following the results of the feed-back it would seem that many of those attending felt that the on road sessions were just too short. As a result we are considering running a series of on road workshops for those that have already completed the 6-hour event.

The workshops would be held on a 2 to 1 ratio on the road and over a 4 hour session. The cost would be £70 per person and include a more detailed assessment of your riding skills, with a comprehensive report detailing every aspect of your riding ability as well as providing areas to perhaps develop in the future.

Those attending would automatically be entered into our proposed revised Biker of the Year event where the winner will receive recognition for their efforts in improving personal safety and riding skills. If you are interested in taking advantage of these extended training events then please contact us and reserve your place.

Biker Forum

The biker forum is developing a motorcycle strategy which will help shape and influence future campaigns and initiatives.

The strategy will be built around the framework of:-

Improving safety & reducing casualties. Increasing road safety awareness. The role of motorcycles & scooters as a mode of transport. Improving access & facilities.

Other issues :-

Who are the motorcyclists most likely to be involved in injury collisions? When are motorcyclists most likely to be killed or injured? Where are motorcycle collisions most likely to occur? What technique is most successful in tackling motorcycle collisions?

If you would like to attend future strategy forum meetings to help compile this document e-mail :- motorbikes@buckscc.gov.uk

MOTORCYCLE PARKING

To help identify practical ideas the Forum is requesting feedback from bikers regarding motorcycle parking in Buckinghamshire.

We will be working in partnership with all four District Councils within our County to satisfy local demand to access safe and secure parking. We would welcome feedback on:-

Do you currently use motorcycle parking areas? If so where and how often?

What type of parking would you use? On street, off street, multi storey—Lock down bars, rails etc?

Does demand exceed supply where you park?

Does your workplace provide motorcycle parking?

If you would like to contribute to the development of motorcycle parking, please e-mail your views to motorbikes@buckscc.gov.uk



Haven't Yet Found The Right Gift?

Are you still looking to buy that special gift for Christmas?

Why not buy a loved one a voucher for a 2007 assessment day, the day aims to give riders the extra skills they need to become better bikers. The course is being offered at the subsidised rate of £30, which includes an assessed ride with a skilled trainer and valuable tips on how to improve your riding.

Or you may wish to consider an advanced assessment course costing £70 as featured on page 1.

For more information or details of how to purchase a voucher contact 01296 382450 or e-mail motorbikes@buckscc.gov.uk



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY IN BUCKS GETS ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL



Picture — left to right Malcolm James, Rebecca Billborough, Ceri James, Ian McGowan

Buckinghamshire Road Safety Officers have received international acclaim for their part in reducing the number of collisions involving motorbikes.

The Prince Michael International Road Safety Award was presented at the Motorcycle and Scooter show at the NEC in Birmingham in October.

The award relates to a concept called the `vanishing point` and centres around the principle of `where you look, is where you go` (WYLIWYG).

On one particular bend on a road near Long Crendon in Buckinghamshire, there had been 3 fatalities and a number of serious injuries in 5 years. There is anecdotal evidence which suggests that riders who lose control of their bikes tend to 'fixate' on what seems to be an object in their path, typically a tree or a signpost. Research shows that around 17 percent of motorcycle fatalities in the UK involve a collision with a side object.

In April 2002, hazard marker posts were positioned on the outer edge of the bend and onward into the straight to concentrate the rider's eyes on the 'vanishing point'. This is the basis of the 'Where You Look Is Where You Go' principle and works on the theory that if you 'hold' the riders eye around a bend, they are likely to successfully negotiate it. Since this scheme was implemented, there have been no further biker collisions or injuries at this location.

The award is sponsored by the Motor Cycle Industry Association and is given to the organisation that has been able to demonstrate innovative and effective ways of reducing motorcycle casualties.

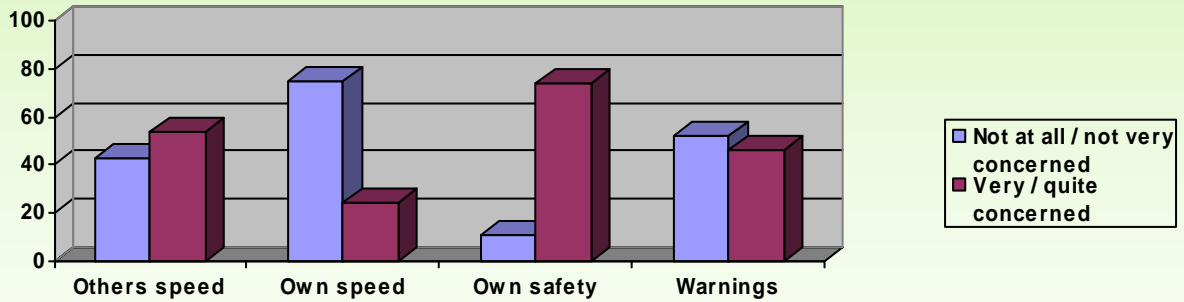
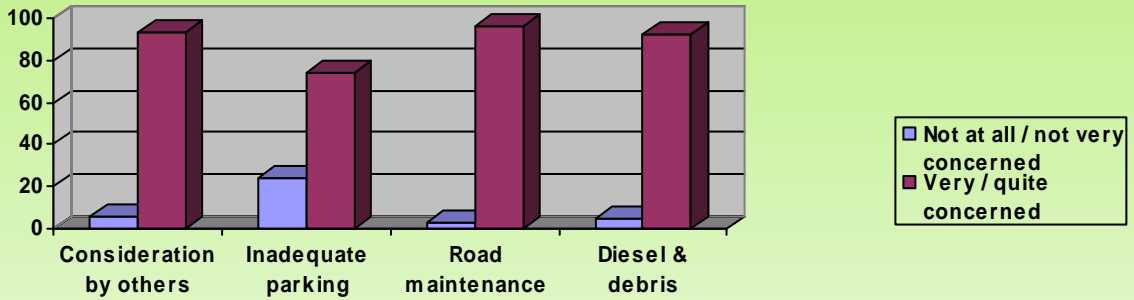
WYLIWYG is recommended in The Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers (IHIE)

Motorcycle User Survey Results

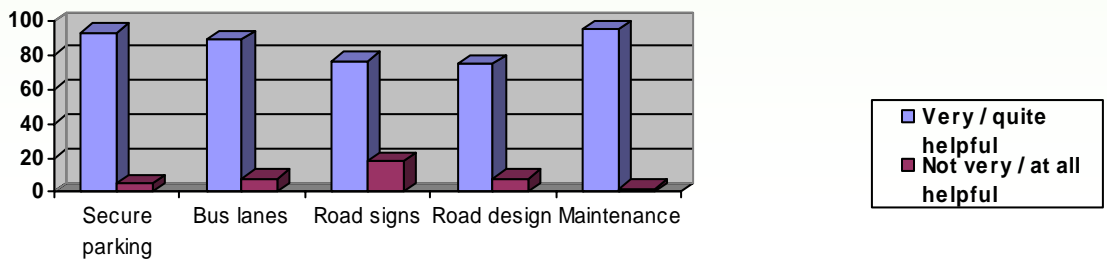
As part of the ongoing need to understand the views of motorcyclists even better it was decided that there was a need to consult with as many bikers as possible on a range of issues concerning safety.

Here is a small selection of the results which may be of interest to you

How concerned are you about the following whilst motorcycling in Bucks?



How helpful would you find the following in Bucks?



Matters arising from all the motorcycle user survey results will be looked at by the sub committee of the biker forum at forthcoming meetings.



All completed and returned questionnaires were entered into a £50 prize draw competition, which Keith Garrood from Aylesbury won. (He is pictured on the right receiving his cheque from Nigel Spencer-Road Safety Officer Bucks County Council.)

