

13th September 2021



E-Scooters - Riders using them in Welwyn Hatfield

Dear Resident,

Having spent a vast amount of time engaging and explaining the law to riders, those without insurance and a licence will now be reported as any other motor vehicle driver would be. This can also lead to the e-scooter being seized under S165 of the Road Traffic Act. Officers will be on patrol over the weekend and beyond, in the areas reported to us as being locations of concern via echo and in person at community engagement events.

"Why are you doing this? Don't you have anything better to do? Why don't you leave riders alone and get real criminals?"

It's an issue affecting the whole of Welwyn Hatfield and we are being asked by the public, you, to address it.

With the current legislation, if a rider collides with a person or another vehicle, it will be treated the same way as a collision with an uninsured driver involving consequences for all parties involved.

The feedback we receive from you tells us that they travel at speed and are ridden in a completely different way to Electrically Assisted Bicycles.
(EAB's are NOT illegal as they do not fall under the same category as e-scooters)

This activity taking place by local officers does not take away from the regular officers responding to 999 calls.

We want to ensure the area is safe for everyone and whilst there is no law to safely operate the devices, we will take appropriate action against riders that we come across.

How comes trial areas can get away with it?

Trial areas still require from the rider -

- A fee to cover insurance and hire
- Provisional Driving Licence
- Rider to be over 18 years old

It remains illegal to ride in Welwyn Hatfield - more info at alexander.smedley@herts.police.uk

Regards,

Alexander Smedley

Safer Neighbourhood Team Sgt