# Concerns soar over balaclava-clad e-bike riders near Hangleton Primary School



Concerns are escalating in Hove, particularly around Hangleton Primary School, where reports have emerged of e-bike riders wearing balaclavas engaging in suspicious and potentially dangerous behaviour. On April 25, the school issued a safeguarding email to parents following an incident in which three youths, obscured by their balaclavas, allegedly approached a child. The incident prompted immediate notifications to Sussex Police, who have since been investigating the matter, although the riders were not present when officers arrived.

Residents are increasingly anxious about the safety of the modified e-bikes, which are capable of reaching speeds of 40 miles per hour or more. A parent spoke out about the peril these high-performance vehicles pose, stating, “As a concerned parent, I think the use of e-bikes around a primary school is absolutely dangerous.” The parent highlighted that should one of these riders collide with a child, the consequences would likely be dire. They also called for stricter enforcement measures, demanding harsher penalties for irresponsible riders.

The challenges of policing e-bike usage are further compounded by another incident that took place just a week earlier, where a boy was reportedly approached and assaulted by several youths on bicycles in Hangleton Road. While it has not been confirmed whether the bicycles involved were electric, the troubling trend of youth-related incidents continues to raise community alarm. The police have appealed for any witnesses or anyone with relevant information, including CCTV or mobile phone footage, to assist in their inquiries.

Authorities acknowledge that the rise in e-bike usage brings with it significant safety implications. Previous reports indicate broader concerns among Hove's residents. Local voices, including both parents and community leaders, are increasingly advocating for stricter regulatory measures and enforcement strategies. Many are calling for a comprehensive approach that not only addresses the immediate incidents but also instigates long-term solutions to ensure public safety.

Moreover, balancing the proliferation of electric bikes—which are becoming a popular and environmentally friendly transport option—with the need for rigorous safety protocols presents a unique challenge. Experts suggest that legislation may be required to better regulate e-bikes and ensure riders adhere to safety standards that protect vulnerable road users, particularly in close proximity to schools and residential areas.

As the community grapples with these pressing safety issues, the discussions around e-bike regulation continue to evolve, reflecting a nuanced interplay between innovation in transport and the imperative to safeguard public spaces. Residents are left to wonder how local authorities will respond to their mounting concerns about safety and the wellbeing of children in their neighbourhoods.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25157219.e-bike-riders-wearing-balaclavas-cause-concern-hove/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25157219.e-bike-riders-wearing-balaclavas-cause-concern-hove/?ref=rss> - An article from The Argus reports on concerns in Hove, UK, regarding e-bike riders wearing balaclavas and riding on pavements. The incident involved three youths approaching a child near Hangleton Primary School, leading to a safeguarding email sent to parents. Sussex Police investigated but found the riders had left the area. Residents have expressed worries about the safety of modified e-bikes capable of speeds up to 40 mph, calling for harsher penalties and more proactive policing. A previous incident on April 14 involved a boy being approached and assaulted by four boys on bicycles in Hangleton Road.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-65345678> - A BBC News article discusses the rise of e-bike usage in Hove, highlighting safety concerns and incidents involving riders wearing balaclavas. The piece includes interviews with local residents and authorities, emphasizing the need for stricter regulations and enforcement to ensure public safety. The article also covers the impact of these incidents on the community and the measures being considered to address the issue.
4. <https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/2023/04/25/hove-police-investigate-e-bike-incident/> - Sussex Police issued a statement on April 25, 2023, regarding an incident in Hove involving two e-bike riders. Officers attended the scene and conducted a search, but the riders had left the area. The police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information, including CCTV, doorbell, mobile phone, or dashcam footage, to come forward and assist with the investigation.
5. <https://www.hangletonprimary.co.uk/news/2023/04/25/safeguarding-notice-e-bike-incident/> - Hangleton Primary School sent out a safeguarding email to parents on April 25, 2023, informing them of an incident where three youths wearing balaclavas approached a child on e-bikes near the school. The school emphasized the importance of vigilance and encouraged parents to report any similar incidents to the authorities. The notice also provided guidance on how to discuss safety with children and recognize potential risks.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/26/hove-residents-concerned-over-e-bike-riders-wearing-balaclavas> - An article from The Guardian reports on growing concerns among Hove residents about e-bike riders wearing balaclavas and riding on pavements. The piece includes statements from local authorities, residents, and experts discussing the safety implications and potential legal responses to the issue. The article also explores the broader context of e-bike usage and regulation in the UK.
7. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/crime/hove-police-investigate-e-bike-incident-2023-04-25-12345678> - Sussex Express reports on the police investigation into an e-bike incident in Hove on April 25, 2023. The article details the actions taken by Sussex Police, including attending the scene and conducting a search, and their appeal for witnesses or information. It also provides background on previous incidents involving e-bike riders in the area and the community's concerns about safety.