

## About us

Welcome to the **Young Bikers** project, which has recently been set up to promote student cycling in Poplar and the Isle of Dogs.

Young Bikers are in the process of designing maps of safe cycle routes to schools and colleges, for both print and online use.

The maps are intended to reassure inexperienced cyclists, as well as parents, and encourage safe and pleasant journeys to school by bike.

The maps will also feature useful information for young bikers, such as cycle groups, bike retailers, workshops and cycle training opportunities in the borough, plus tips on safe cycling.

Young Bikers is working closely with Sustrans' **Bike It** scheme.

## The Maps

The Young Bikers maps will be easy to use.

They will feature useful local landmarks and other relevant information, including that provided by students themselves (see page 4).

Routes will be designed to encourage the safest, most pleasant journeys. They will be colour-coded - **green amber red** - to indicate how busy they are, and direction signs will be placed en route in the physical environment.

Printed maps will be supplied for **free** to all schools and colleges in Poplar and Isle of Dogs.

PDF maps will be made available for download from the Young Bikers blog and GPS map data will be uploaded to **www.openstreetmap.org**.

## Why cycle?

- It's **fun** – cycling gives you a sense of freedom
- It's **empowering** – cycling gives you a sense of achievement
- It's **healthy** – cycling is great exercise and keeps you fit
- It's **sustainable** – cycling helps the environment
- It's **cheap** – cycling reduces your transport costs
- It's **pleasant** – you can use quiet cycle routes to get around
- It's **interesting** – cycling lets you see more of your local area
- It's **flexible** – when cycling there are less restrictions
- It's **fast** - cycling is often quicker than other modes of transport

## **We want students to get involved**

We encourage students and teachers to get involved with the project.

Students are invited to propose their own routes, share their ideas about the maps and the blog, post comments, and..?

The Young Bikers blog is their blog so it is up to them!

**[www.youngbikers.blogspot.com](http://www.youngbikers.blogspot.com)**

## How you can help

As the Safe Routes To Schools champion your assistance in promoting the scheme is invaluable. We ask you to consider doing the following:

- Encourage students to get involved with the Young Bikers project
- Encourage heads, teachers, student reps and parents to promote the benefits of cycling
- Help set up a school cycle group, if one does not already exist, and establish a school “cycle day”
- Promote the idea of lessons based on the Young Bikers project: mapping (and cycling) can be an interesting way to teach a whole host of subjects
- Help discourage the “school run” and support the shift from car / bus use to walking and cycling

## How can we help you?

We can supply PDF literature, posters and maps, plus a limited amount of other items, including Young Bikers stickers and badges.

We can also help organise speakers and bike-related prizes as incentives for competitions.

We will also point you in the direction of further support, should you require it. Our aim is to help facilitate a thriving cycle culture amongst students and we will do our best to assist you in this task.

The local Sustrans' **Bike It** scheme – [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk) – may also be able to help.

Plus check out Tower Hamlets Wheelers – [www.towerhamletswheelers.org.uk](http://www.towerhamletswheelers.org.uk) – who regularly organise group rides, cycle maintenance workshops and other opportunities for cyclists.

## Contact us

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions or would like to get involved. We look forward to hearing from you.

**07741 026 717**

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Young Bikers is an independent voluntary project working in tandem with Tower Hamlets council, Sustrans' Bike It scheme and others.