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on p78

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{ FROM }

THE EDITOR



WATCHING SEVERAL children
tearing around on their bikes in
the forest-shadowed evening
sunshine, it's clear that now, as
ever, children love cycling. All
they need is a few friends with
bikes and an opportunity to
mess about in an environment
untroubled by traffic and only
lightly policed by parents.

It's something that we took
for granted growing up, when
residential roads were
playgrounds. They could be
again. A 20mph speed limit is
just the start. What we need are
'woonerven' or home zones:
places where cyclists and
pedestrians have priority over
cars, which travel at walking
pace. At a stroke, that would
give children freedom outside
their own front doors.

That's a long term hope, of
course, unless you live in the
Netherlands. Yet even now, in
Britain, there are plenty of
places children can ride around
with abandon. Mostly they're
off-road.

You may have to travel to
such places. That forest-
shadowed evening sunlight was
shining on the Ellerburn
Training Trail in Dalby Forest
(p49). Sometimes, however, the
mountain biking will come to
Mohammed. I was in Sheffield a
couple of weeks earlier, riding
the Parkwood Springs mountain
biking trail – part of an urban
regeneration programme a mile
from the centre of the city.
Urban facilities like that will set
more and more children free to
have fun on their bikes.

DAN JOYCE



Photos: Neil Wheadon, Phil O'Connor, Chris Juden



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