

Youth club funding drive

AN ISLINGTON go-kart maintenance project has proved such a great success in King's Cross since it was launched in March this year that organisers are hoping to raise funds to keep it going on a permanent basis, writes Peter Gruner.

The project is part of the Sparkplug initiative, launched by youth worker Martin Willis at Bingfield Park for young people from the Bemerton estate, off Caledonian Road so that they could "mess about with old vehicles".

The project draws teenagers from the surrounding area between 6-9.30pm, helping to alleviate crime and anti-social behaviour on the estate.

Attracted through word of mouth recommendations, up to 70 teenagers from 12-17 years find out about go-kart mechanics, and have a go at applying the skills they learn to keep the machines in top condition.

Part of the incentive is that they then get to go on Sparkplug organised kart racing outings during school holidays and weekends.



Young go-kart engineers

Mr Willis, project manager said: "We've got enough cash to keep the project going until August. By then we'll need to cast around for money to keep it going."

The Sparkplug project which will have a new centre at Bingfield next year, funded through the Youth Opportunities Fund and Islington Council.

■ For more information on the initiative ring: 020 7619 9229