

# Cheshire West & Chester Council

## Media Release



### **Bike stand bonanza!**

A free community cycle parking scheme has been launched by Cycle Chester which could involve voluntary sector groups, small businesses, shops, offices, places of worship, cafés, - in fact almost any type of organisation based in Chester - applying for cycle parking stands.

Up to four stands -- that's parking for eight bikes -- are available per applicant, each holds two bikes neatly and securely. The recipient is responsible for installing them on their own premises and in a location agreed with the scheme organiser.

Good quality cycle parking reduces the likelihood of bikes being stolen or damaged and demonstrates that an organisation is doing its bit to promote cycling and to reduce its carbon footprint.

Councillor Neil Ritchie, Environment Executive Member for Cheshire West and Chester Council said; "As one of eighteen Cycling Towns in the UK it is essential that we work with local partners to make sure Chester has secure cycle stands at convenient sites throughout the city.

"This important scheme complements Cycle Chester's various initiatives to increase cycling in the area such as the recent extension of the Greenway and the upcoming Deva Link development."

Peter Andrews, the community cycle parking scheme administrator, said: "This is a simple, cost-effective initiative to combat cycle theft and to make cycling easier and more convenient. We're particularly keen to see applications from small businesses and from voluntary sector organisations who would otherwise struggle to afford the cost of providing cycle parking."

Chester has high levels of bike use and, as a consequence, bike theft is an on-going problem. Cyclists can safeguard their bikes by using a well made lock and taking a few simple precautions such as always locking your bike if leaving it unattended, locking your

bike in a location where there are lots of people, removing any accessories and locking both the wheel and the frame of your bike to make it more secure. Employers can help by installing proper cycle stands in a prominent position.

To apply for cycle stands visit the Cycle Chester website [www.cyclechester.com](http://www.cyclechester.com) and download an application form, or phone 01594 564 344

**Ends.**

## **NOTES**

1. The most recent British Crime Survey (2005/06) records 439,000 bicycles stolen during the year. The real figure may be up to four times greater due to under-reporting. Cycle theft hurts people from every walk of life but, sadly, those who are least well off and who may depend on their bicycle for everyday transport are most likely to be victims of crime. Studies show that having a bike stolen is often more than a simple inconvenience: it can be the final straw. Rather than replace the bike many people simply give up cycling altogether.
2. Community cycle parking schemes of the type now underway in Chester have been shown to increase levels of cycling and to decrease incidences of theft and tampering significantly.
3. Chester was one of 18 locations in the UK to be awarded Cycling Town or City status in 2008 and fought off competition from 74 other local authorities to win the funding. Chester joins the existing six Cycling Demonstration Towns, including Darlington and Derby, which have already successfully implemented local cycling initiatives and campaigns and increased the numbers of people cycling.