



> OWL

Staff show support for bike and mobile phone initiatives

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Bikes and mobile phones were on the menu at a special lunch event in September, when staff were able to find out how they can help themselves and the local community.

Cambridge Police were invited along to talk to staff about Immobilise (www.immobilise.com), a website where bikes, mobile phones and other valuables can be registered and then returned to the owner if they are recovered after being stolen. Roughly 2,500 bikes are reported stolen in Cambridge every year, with 800 of these being recovered but only 5% returned to owners.

The police officers brought along two laptops allowing a number of people to register their bikes there and then and to demonstrate how the system worked.

The event was also attended by Sawston based OWL, a community based social enterprise project, which provides work experience and vocational training opportunities for adults with learning difficulties and young people who need extra support in realising their ambitions to enter the world of work. One of their initiatives is to collect unwanted bikes to refurbish for sale or break for recycling along with aluminium cans, mobile phones and inkjet cartridges. Five bikes and about half a dozen phones were donated by staff on the day. Details of the organisation can be found at www.owlgroup.org.uk.

Facilities Management Assistant Tracy Thomas, who organised the event, was delighted with both the turn out and the response from staff: "People were very interested to hear about both projects and a few people picked up leaflets and said they would come along to OWL shop in Sawston. The estate team is always looking for ways to support local charities and encourage community spirit with events like this."

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