

Local charity finds innovative ways to encourage cycling

Radford-based charity, the Partnership Council, has been telling everyone to 'get on their bikes' recently - in more ways than one!

Firstly, the charity is making it easier for its staff to cycle to work by providing a safe and secure 'bike park' plus shower and changing facilities for cyclists.

The charity has also joined the national 'Cycle to Work Guarantee' scheme, an initiative aimed at UK employers with the aim of encouraging them to become more 'cycle friendly'.

The scheme was launched recently by the NHS 'Change 4 Life' programme, the National Business Travel Network (NBTN), Business in the Community and the Department for Transport.

The scheme is free for employers to join and requires that they provide facilities for staff cycling to work, such as dedicated 'bike parks'.

Ruth Greenberg, Chief Officer of the Partnership Council explains:

"We run a number of green projects and as a charity we try very hard to do our bit to help the local environment, whilst helping the community to do the same. We've joined the 'Cycle to Work Guarantee' scheme to show our formal commitment to encouraging greener forms of transport, such as cycling. Plus of course, cycling is a great way to keep fit!

The scheme is great because it's not about 'telling' people they should be cycling, it's about encouraging and supporting people to get on their bikes, by providing the kind of practical facilities they need, such as a safe place to leave their bikes during work and a shower."

Partnership Council · Unit C · Tennyson Hall · Forest Road West · Radford · Nottingham · NG7 4EP
Telephone 0115 970 8200 · Fax: 0115 970 8200 · Email mail@partnershipcouncil.co.uk

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Secondly, the Partnership Council showed local people how bikes can be used to produce energy at its Community Open Day last Saturday.

Volunteer Tom Dixon demonstrated how computer games can be run on the energy produced by pedalling a bike; whilst Matt Little, from the voluntary project 'Renewable Energy Innovation' and volunteer Rosie Barker showed how bikes can be used to provide enough energy to power items including a bubble machine and a sound system!

The volunteers also used pedal power to turn the blades of a smoothie maker and provided free smoothies for visitors throughout the event. As you can imagine, the bike-powered gadgets proved very popular with local children - especially the bubble machine!

Rachel Wicks from the Partnership Council says:

"The pedal powered items proved to be the highlight of the event and hopefully showed local people how versatile bikes can be - from both an environmental and also a health point of view."

To find out more about the Partnership Council:

www.partnershipcouncil.co.uk

To find out more about pedal power projects in Nottingham or about the charity's other green projects call Rachel Wicks on 0115 970 8200 or email rachel@partnershipcouncil.co.uk

To find out more about the 'Cycle to Work Guarantee' scheme:

www.cycletoworkguarantee.org.uk

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