

100 join rally to promote cycling

FREE bananas were used to entice more people to cycle to work as part of Oxford's effort at marking European Car-Free Day on Monday.

About 100 cyclists joined a rally outside the Oxfam shop in Broad Street for breakfast at 8am, in a show of solidarity with the campaign against people relying on cars to get around the city.

Organised by the Cycling Campaign for Oxford (Cyclo) and Oxford Friends of the Earth, the event was aimed at calling on workers in the city to leave their cars at home and join the campaigners for Fair-Trade coffee, a free banana and muesli breakfast, before cycling to work.

Cyclists wore yellow to draw attention to the rally and raise the campaign's profile.

Cyclo member Ed Lehman, who also represents the



■ Car free... Lord Mayor of Oxford Pat Stannard and councillor Maureen Christian lead a group of cyclists along Broad Street (Order No: 154622) Picture: George Reszeter

south Oxfordshire branch of the Cyclists Touring Club, said: "It was a great co-operative effort."

"We had an enormous

amount of support. That shows people in Oxfordshire want to highlight the benefits of cycling."

"There were lots of cyclists

who were on their way to work as usual, who took time out to stop and join us for a few moments, before heading on."

Cyclo exists to lobby Oxfordshire County Council, which controls the city's roads, to do more to improve safety for people who do not

use cars, by encouraging lower speed limits in key areas including High Street, Magdalen Bridge and The Plain.

The group also wants better cycle-safety measures along parts of Botley Road, Abingdon Road and Cowley Road.