



# THIEVES STEAL CHILD'S WHEELCHAIR

## Appeal for witnesses after family is left “devastated”

By Ivor Story

A four-year-old-girl has been left confined to her home after callous thieves stole her electric wheel-chair.

Ellie Sherwood suffers from a rare condition called Rulaps Syndrome, which affects the central nervous system and means she is unable to walk. Last year friends and family raised over £2,000 to buy Ellie a specially adapted wheelchair, and this meant that for the first time she would be able to take part in the annual school trip to the Zoo next month.

But Ellie's dreams of joining her school friends have been left in tatters after the family

car was stolen yesterday evening

The wheelchair had been left in the boot of the car after a family outing at the weekend. The car, a blue Honda Civic, was stolen from outside Barclays Bank on High Street, Sunnyville at approximately 6pm yesterday evening. It was last seen heading in the direction of West Street and was later found burnt out on disused land.

Ellie's father David Sherwood spoke of the family's upset following the theft.

“We've all been absolutely devastated by what's happened”, he said. Ellie has been in tears since we



Ellie enjoying normal school life

explained that her wheelchair has gone. The manufacturer has told us it will be six to eight weeks before they're able to provide Ellie with a new wheelchair. She was really looking forward to going to school next week but it now looks like this won't be possible. “Having the car stolen is one thing but the wheelchair is a completely different matter.”

### ENQUIRIES

Police today confirmed they are questioning two men in relation to the theft. Once their enquiries are complete they will pass a file to the CPS for a charging decision.