

READING TASK

1. Read the article quickly and answer:

Which two ideas to help prevent crime does it mention?



GETTING CREATIVE with crime

CYCLE THIEVES WE ARE WATCHING YOU

OPERATION CRACKDOWN

Newcastle University Estate Security Service in partnership with Northumbria Police

An experiment carried out at Newcastle University aimed at reducing the number of bike thefts has produced some remarkable results. The most efficient way of stopping people from stealing bikes seems almost too simple to be true. If you want to persuade thieves not to act, make them feel they're being watched!

Posters showing a large pair of eyes were put up near three bike racks at the university, while other bike racks had no posters. The researchers explained that the number of thefts decreased by 62 per cent compared to the previous year at racks with posters. However, at the other racks, thefts actually increased by 63 per cent. Experts claim that clearly visible images of eyes make people feel they're being watched. They say that we all care what other people think about us and that's why we behave better when we think someone is looking. Now officials have agreed to carry out similar projects at train stations all over the country.

The 'giant eyes' poster isn't the only unusual method being used to try and fight crime on UK streets. In the East Midlands city of Leicester, police are inviting people to make large woolly balls and hang them up in trees around the area. They hope that these colourful additions to neighbourhoods will help create a safer place to live. The thinking behind the idea is that if you create a pleasant environment, people are more likely to behave better. 'We live in a world where our every move is being watched by CCTV cameras,' one of the organisers told us. 'The cameras are there to deter possible criminals, but they come at a price, and many people don't like being

watched 24 hours a day. We believe there's another way. We want to encourage people to take more pride in where they live.'

However, not all residents are happy – many refuse to believe it will make any difference. They're demanding that the police do more to reduce trouble in the area. One local resident told us, 'I recommend that the police stop wasting their time on mad schemes like this and do some real policing. We need to see more policemen walking around our streets, especially at night.'

2. Read the article again and choose if the statements are **TRUE** or **FALSE**

- The crime prevention scheme at Newcastle University used the latest technology. **TRUE FALSE**
- After the posters were put up, there were fewer bike thefts from all the university bike racks. **TRUE FALSE**
- There were plans to use the posters in other parts of the UK. **TRUE FALSE**
- It's hoped that the woolly balls will make people care more about where they live. **TRUE FALSE**
- CCTV cameras will be used to catch criminals interfering with the woolly balls. **TRUE FALSE**
- The woolly ball scheme is popular with all residents. **TRUE FALSE**