



There is plenty of negative signage telling teenagers what not to do and where not to go, but most of the time they just need somewhere to meet and 'hang out'. Many studies (of which the one by the Thames Valley Police is probably the best known) show that teen shelters can be successful in providing somewhere simply 'to be'.

Taking shelter

THE PRESENCE of a teen shelter also makes the visual statement of 'Yes! OKay' which is far more encouraging than prohibition signage. The demand for teen shelters has grown so that there is now a huge choice from many API members. Customer preferences vary between materials used in manufacture, colour and design. Fortunately, there is now something to suit all buyers and specifiers as a glance at the members' websites will confirm. Here are just three examples:

● **Meeting up – that's the point!**

SMP Playgrounds installed a Meeting Point shelter in Brightwell Recreational Ground, Northampton in November 2007 (pictured top) as part of a £6,000 refurbishment project for the park. Further details: www.smp.co.uk

● **Wood works**

This wooden shelter (pictured above) was installed just over a year ago at in Chiseldon

Primary School in Wiltshire. They chose it because it incorporated natural timber materials complemented with green HDPE panels for its rear panels and roof. The area is semi rural so such shelters were chosen for their natural appearance, robustness and modern design. With around 20 installed – mostly in rural areas – the 'open design' appeals, allowing easier policing of these in areas where teens and others may congregate at night. Further details: www.playlinedesign.co.uk

● **Social Climbing**

At Oakwell Hall Country Park, West Yorkshire, Sutcliffe's Curved Climber (pictured top, right) is a meeting place with a twist. Access is only possible via either the curved climbing wall or up a very challenging flexi-chain climb – some calorie burning climbing skills exercise is inevitable. The roof and climbing wall also provide shelter from the weather. Further details: www.sutcliffeplay.co.uk ■



For a copy of the current API Directory of members, contact:
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