

# EARTHSCAN

## BOOK REVIEW

Book	CITY REGION 2020 / THE COMMUNITY PLANNING HANDBOOK
Author/Editor	
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### REVIEWS

## Ground force

Friends of the Earth Board member Tom Broughton picks two new books which could help campaigners, planners and communities create sustainable communities

"I really liked the *Community Planning Handbook*: If I got more involved in trying out the community planning approach then the hardest task would be choosing from the many clever, imaginative ways of involving the community outlined in this book. Wates does not say, 'Do this, do that,' but he convincingly shows how community planning "is the best way of ensuring communities become safer, stronger, wealthier and more sustainable." It's not wordy at all either. In fact I found that the many pictures gave me space to think about the ideas. It should be compulsive reading for all government officials involved in planning.

"Although the book concentrates on the built environment – Wates mentions parks, but not urban wildlife parks or community farms – this is not really a

big criticism because the methods can be applied to these too.

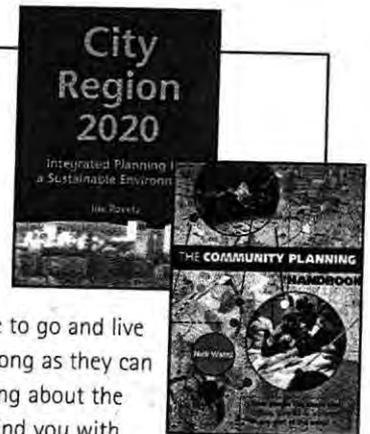
"If *Community Planning* is a book about how to achieve a sustainable environment, then *City Region 2020* is what needs to be done. I'm a real fan of Friends of the Earth's *Tomorrow's World* and I felt *City Region 2020* fleshed out the ideas introduced in it by conjuring up the society we're trying to create. Not surprisingly *City Region 2020* focuses on Greater Manchester as it is by Joe Ravetz, director of the Sustainable City-Region programme at the Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology, University of Manchester. If Manchester really is turning into the place it aspires to be,

then I'd like to go and live there – as long as they can do something about the weather. Mind you with climate change perhaps that will come as well..."

*Community Planning Handbook: how people can shape their cities, towns and villages in any part of the world.* Nick Wates (Earthscan £14.95)

*City Region 2020: integrated planning for a sustainable environment.* Joe Ravetz (Earthscan, £19.95)

*Tom Broughton lives in Chichester and is working hard to ensure the South Downs becomes a National Park.*



**Reviewers wanted:** We would like more reviews by *earthmatters* readers. If you are interested please send a short note (50 words) to Nicola Baird outlining the sort of books you would be interested in reviewing.