

PROJECT REVIEW: Community Planning

A new international handbook

CONCEPT AND PRODUCT

All over the world there is increasing demand from all sides for more local involvement in the planning and management of the environment.

But how should it be done? How can local people – wherever they live – best involve themselves in the complexities of architecture, planning and urban design? How can professionals best build on local knowledge and resources?

Over the past few decades, a wide range of methods has been pioneered in different countries. They include new ways of people interacting, new types of event, new types of organisation, new services and new support frameworks.

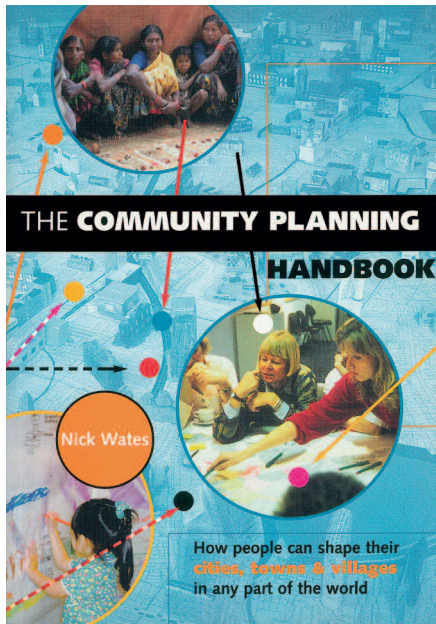
The Community Planning Handbook – a product of DFID research – is the first comprehensive overview of these new methods. It also shows how methods can be mixed and matched for a variety of common development scenarios. The book is aimed at everyone concerned with the built environment. Jargon is avoided and material is presented in a universally applicable, how-to-do-it style. Extensive glossary, bibliography and contact sections provide quick access to further information and support. A feedback section helps readers to provide information for future editions.

DFID Research Project R7141

Also supported by the Urban Design Group, The Prince's Foundation, South Bank University, DETR and ECHO.

SCENARIOS COVERED

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Community centre | New neighbourhood |
| Derelict site reuse | Planning study |
| Disaster management | Regeneration infrastructure |
| Environmental art project | Shanty settlement |
| Housing development | upgrading |
| Industrial heritage re-use | Town centre upgrade |
| Inner city regeneration | Urban conservation |
| Local neighbourhood initiative | Village revival |
| | Whole settlement strategy |



METHODS COVERED

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Action planning event | Microplanning workshop |
| Activity week | Mobile unit |
| Architecture centre | Models |
| Art workshop | Neighbourhood planning office |
| Award scheme | Newspaper supplement |
| Briefing workshop | Open house event |
| Choice catalogue | Open space workshop |
| Community design centre | Participatory editing |
| Community planning forum | Photo survey |
| Community profiling | Planning aid scheme |
| Design assistance team | Planning day |
| Design fest | Planning for Real |
| Design game | Planning weekend |
| Design workshop | Prioritising |
| Development trust | Process planning session |
| Diagrams | Reconnaissance trip |
| Electronic map | Review session |
| Elevation montage | Risk assessment |
| Environment shop | Road show |
| Feasibility fund | Simulation |
| Field workshop | Street stall |
| Future search conference | Table scheme display |
| Gaming | Task force |
| Ideas competition | Urban design studio |
| Interactive display | User group |
| Local design statement | Video soapbox |
| Mapping | |

RESEARCH PROCESS

The making of this book has been guided by the belief that participatory editing and testing of good practice guidance is one of the most effective ways of achieving widespread improvement of practice and knowledge transfer. The process has been:

- Title and format.** Concept established by the author, designer and supporting organisations.
- Publicity.** Call for information leaflet (3/98).
- Pilot projects, seminars and research.** Project evaluation, seminars organised, desk research.
- Sample material published.** Ten methods and four scenarios published in *Urban Design Quarterly*, (7/98). Also on web site.
- Editing workshops.** In London (11/98) and the Philippines (1/99).
- Consultation draft.** Circulated to over 60 practitioners (1/99). Over 35 responses received.

Feedback at each stage has been invaluable. The end result is that a good range of methods and scenarios are now covered. But there are more that could beneficially be added. It is therefore hoped that the process will continue with further editions, translations and adaptations tailored to specific local contexts. A web-based version is also planned.

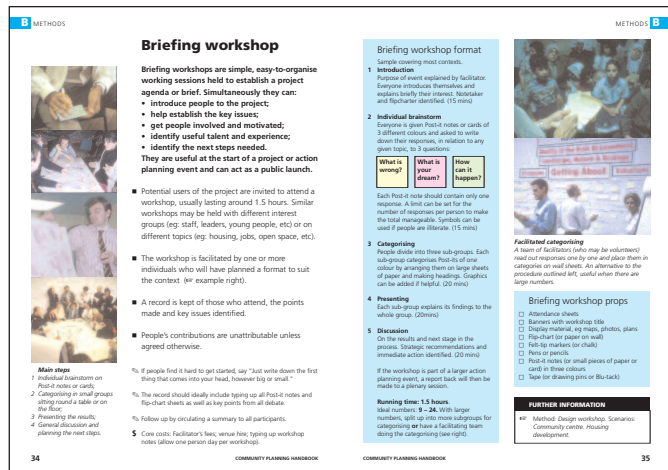
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The book will shortly be available from bookshops or from:

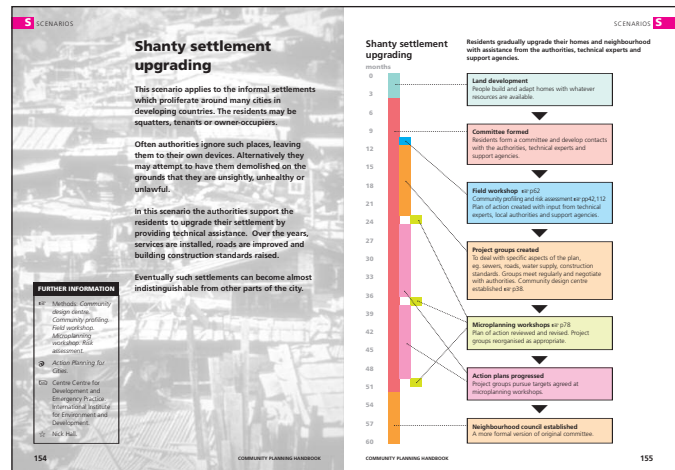
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A limited number of free copies are available for community-based organisations in developing countries. To apply for one, or for further information on the project, please contact:
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The Community Planning Handbook; how people can shape their cities, towns and villages in any part of the world. Nick Waters. Earthscan, 2000 (Jan). ISBN 1-85383-654-0. £14.95. 240 pages. 210x148mm. Colour & illustrations throughout.



Example of a Methods page



Example of a Scenarios page