



Figure 5.39 The Millgate project: house plan.

design to their satisfaction. They were then asked to transfer the design to squared paper following the checkerboard pattern of the model (Figures 5.38 and

5.39). They were also encouraged to give important dimensions for the rooms. The game was described as great fun 'as good as telly'.

The sketches were interpreted by the Projects Unit's architect Dan Bone and redrawn in a professional style. The group, together with the professionals in the team, analysed the drawings, comparing them with the original layout (Figure 5.40). From this critique, anomalies such as windows in party walls were thought about again. Then, for the final design phase, a large-scale polystyrene model of the whole layout was made (Figures 5.41 and 5.42). The purpose of this design phase was to organize the use of the space between and around the buildings. A further group visit was organized to illustrate the landscaping possibilities in the design of this little street. It was decided to take the group to Norwich, which was noted for some of its urban landscaping schemes. The visit to Norwich also became another community-building exercise, cementing friendships in a relaxed atmosphere (Figures 5.43 and 5.44).

The final people's plan was presented to the Housing Association three months after the start of the project and within the time allocated for the exercise (Figure 5.45). The probable cost of the project was determined and found to be about 10 per cent over the limit set by the then Government cost yardstick. The Association's architect, in consultation with the community group, reorganized the scheme to meet the cost yardstick without detriment to the design or the process. Unfortunately, the then Conservative Government placed a moratorium on all 'new build' housing. Two years later the site was developed, the design being based closely on the ideas of the people taking part in the exercise (Figures 5.46 to 5.49).

The project in Newark shows quite clearly that people can become involved in the detailed design of their homes and surrounding environment. It also shows that the process is conducive to the creation of a 'community', taking the form of emerging friendship patterns. Furthermore, the process



Figure 5.40 The Millgate project: critique of house plans.



Figure 5.41 The Millgate project: large-scale model.