

# Reflections On Community-Led Planning

Source: Barry Toon



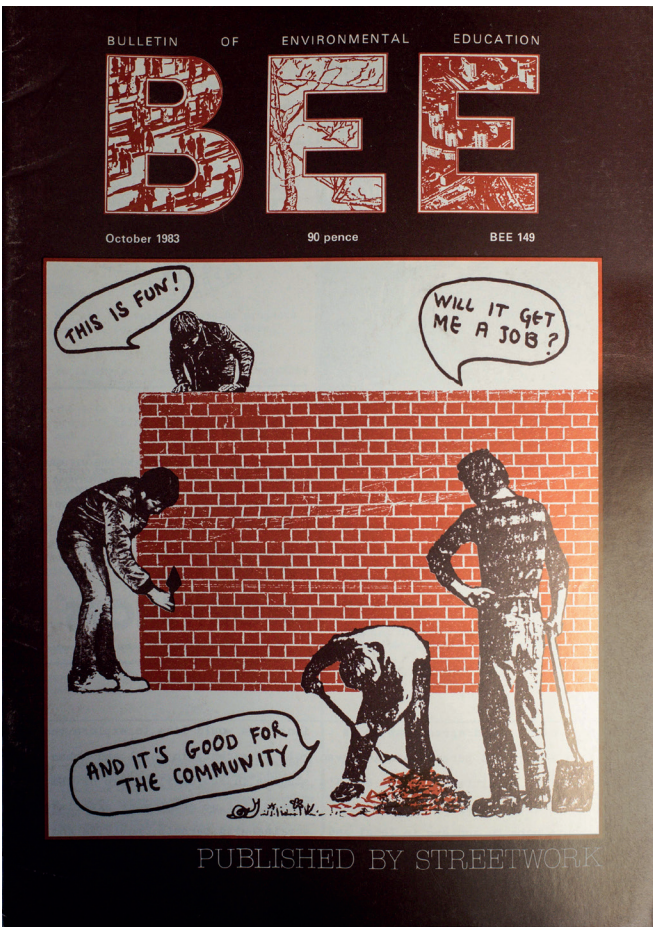
## Putting the *Community* into planning

CLP has been at the forefront of demands to democratise formal planning and broaden its scope. Most CLP initiatives move planning beyond 'land-use' to include community facilities, affordable housing, sustainable local economies, bottom-up decision-making and much more. Planning should be holistic and should done by and with communities, not to them.



Source: Barry Toon

Source: TCPA archive



## Planning and/as community development

CLP has also shown the need to strengthen the connections between planning and community development. These lessons seem particularly important today when planning is increasingly drawn towards the market and community development struggles for funding.

Source: Exeter St James Community Trust

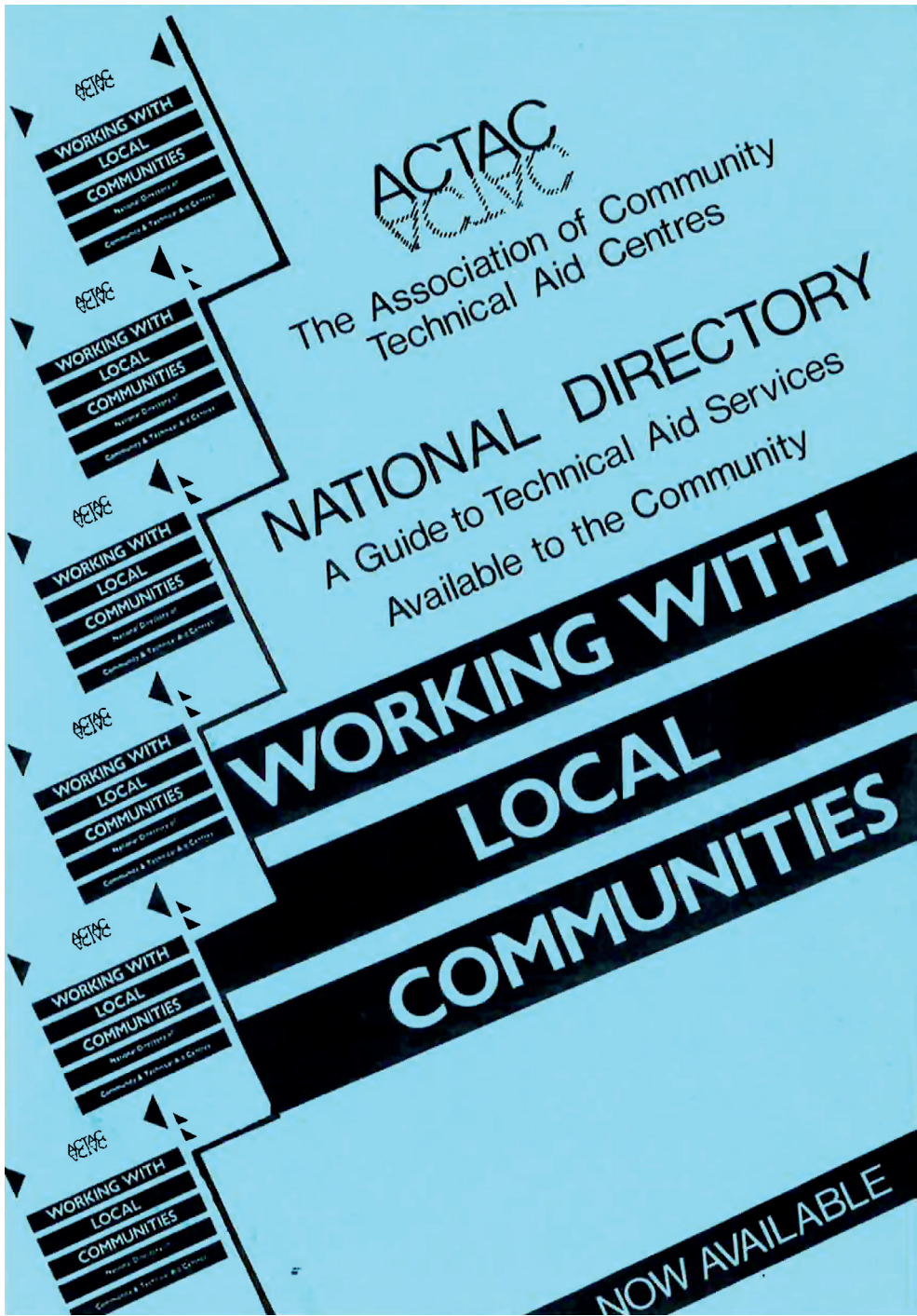


## Investing in alternatives

CLP often thrived in periods and places when greater support was available. Local councils, universities, charities, professional bodies and central government CLP often thrived in periods and places when greater support was available. This enabled networks of planning, housing, arts, play and community groups to develop locally and nationally. Cheap rents and the welfare state also made it easier for people to get involved. Although often short term, these conditions of possibility for CLP seem to be greatly reduced today.

## From the margins to the mainstream?

Some of the ideas and practices of CLP, such as Planning for Real weekends, community benefits offered as part of developments and recognition of Community Land Trusts, have now become more prevalent. But do these fully reflect the demands and spirit of CLP? And do they empower or co-opt communities?



Courtesy of Roger Kirkham