



group by the research team together with a set of model homes made to the same scale. The model homes were made to represent bungalows, flats and two-storey houses of various floor sizes. Each family unit chose a home of a size compatible with the number of people in the family. Each family then printed its name on the bottom of the model home (Figure 5.30).

Right from the initial meeting the group divided into two sub-groups. One sub-group always located their homes to the north of the road dividing the site while the other group chose to locate their homes to the south of the site. Within each sub-group, particular families insisted on locating on adjacent plots. A group of unmarried young people insisted on being together in a block of flats while a married couple with three young children and a single widowed woman wished to be next-door neighbours. The couple intended to take care of both gardens and the older woman was to be the resident baby sitter: during the design process the older woman became an adopted granny. A group of elderly people wished to occupy bungalows on adjacent sites while the single-parent mother with a piano always located on the fringe of the site with the 'room for the piano' facing away from the neighbours. The community-building exercise did not precede the design process as we envisaged, but proceeded along with the design. Both processes were in fact parallel. Within three weeks, a plan was prepared showing the position of each family home. It was given to the local authority for comment and, while there were no objections, much greater detail of the project was required (Figure 5.31).

The next stage in the process was to enable individual families to design their own homes. For this purpose each family was asked to describe and,

Figure 5.32 The Millgate project: visit to Milton Keynes.