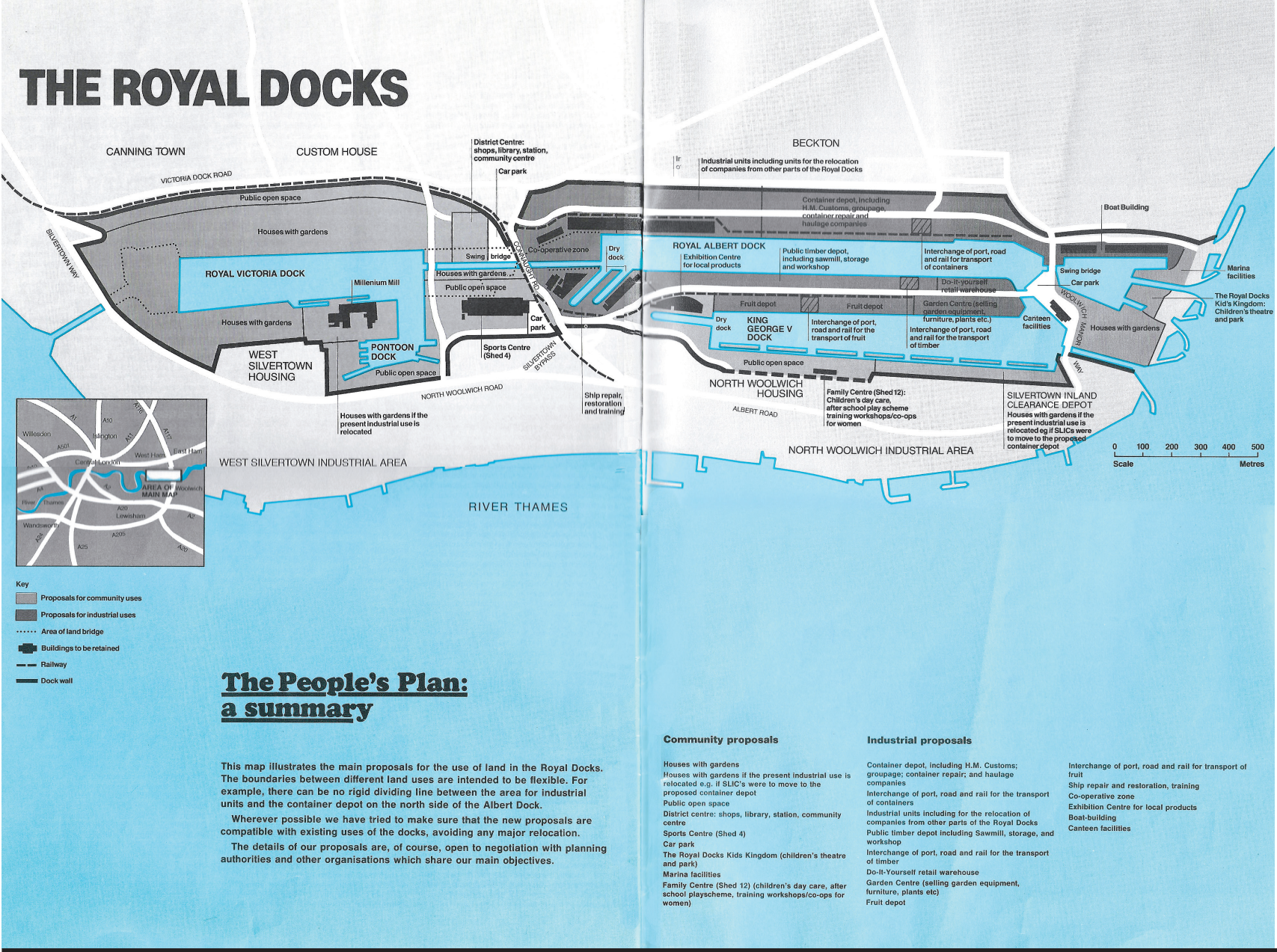


THE PEOPLE'S PLAN FOR THE ROYAL DOCKS

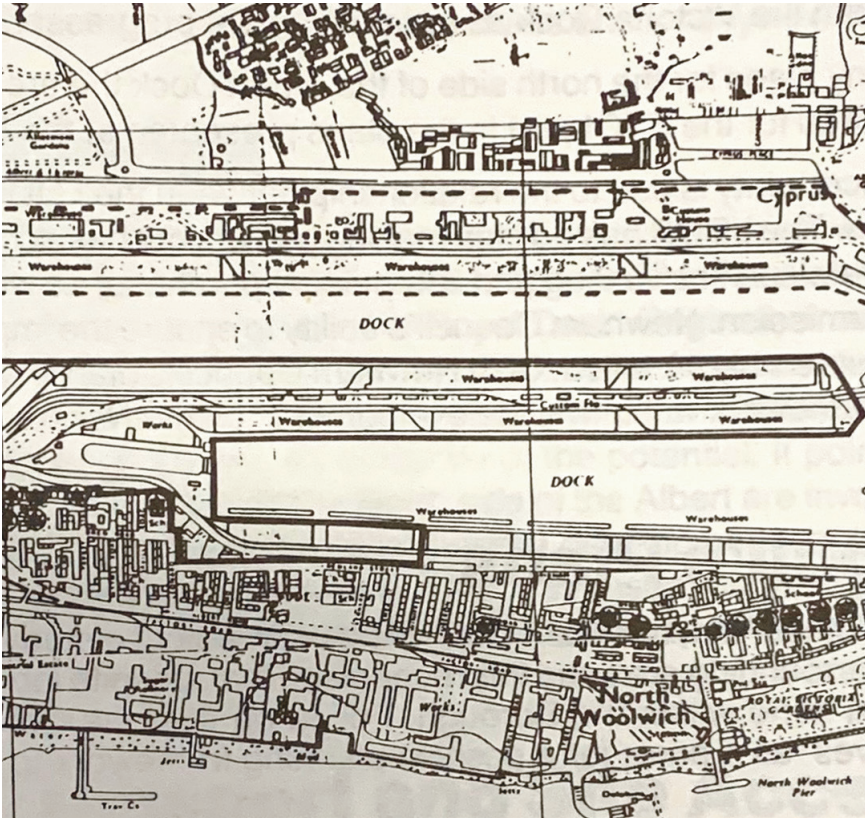
An Alternative Plan



The Inquiry

Plan Centre workers, trades unionists and local people presented the plan to the inquiry held in the Terrapin Building in the Albert Dock Basin on 6th and 7th Sept 1983. This was despite the LDDC's barrister saying barrister saying 'we are prepared to listen to alternatives from a statutory body, from the GLC or Newham Council, but from the people...a people's plan...ridiculous. I've never heard of such a thing.

'The proposals in the People's Plan are not simply an alternative to the airport in its use of the land of the docks – they point to an alternative approach to creating jobs and strengthening the community'. PEOPLES' PLAN, P9



A Unique Industrial Centre

Jobs were at the heart of the Plan as unemployment at the time was high. A study by the GLC showed that limited cargo handling was a sustainable option. Local boat building skills could be developed through refitting the dry dock. A co-op zone would support existing firms and encourage new ones. Childcare and training centres would help local parents. This was a contrast to the 'businessman's airport'.

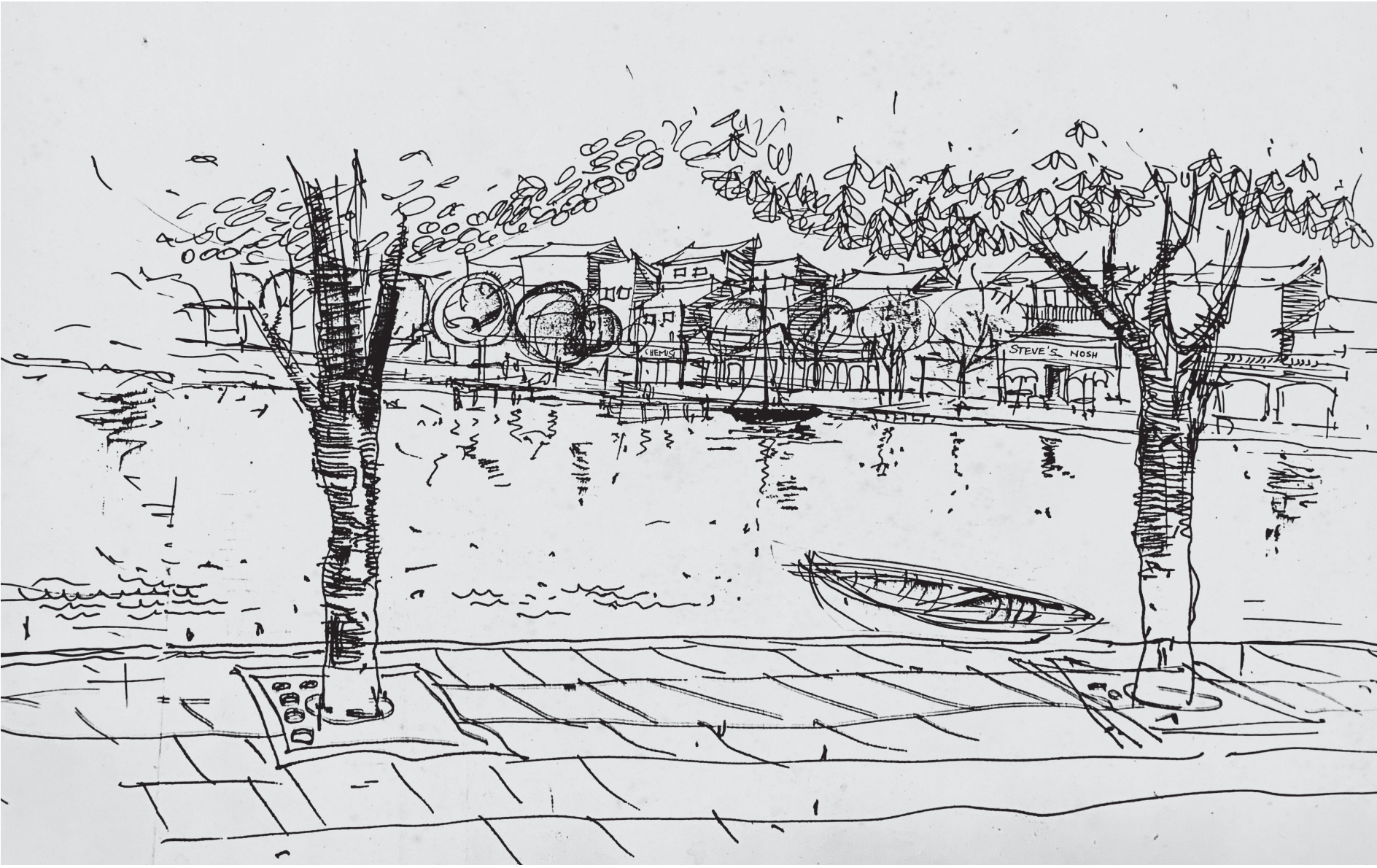


A Kids Kingdom

People contributing to the Plan talked about the area being forgotten and lacking facilities and open space, particularly for young people. Proposals for culture, leisure and recreation included a Kids Kingdom in the Albert Dock Basin, watersports and turning Shed 4, a massive warehouse, in the Victoria Dock into a sports centre.

A Model Place To Live

When the docks were operating walls and water separated the different communities. The Plan proposed land bridges that would link the 'islands' and using space in the docks for family centres, affordable houses with gardens, parks, and other community facilities.



The Alternatives

The alternatives in the People's Plan reflected the social, political, economic and planning context of the time. They also came out of the alliance between local groups, trades unions and the GLC that was behind it. A Plan today will not look the same but the principle of starting with people and showing there is a different way remains relevant.