

# THE PEOPLE'S PLAN FOR THE ROYAL DOCKS

## WORK FOR THE FUTURE OF NEWHAM

THE NEWHAM DOCKLANDS FORUM, a federation of local organisations in Newham, is starting a campaign to draw up plans for jobs and local amenities in the Royal Docks area. The GLC has given the campaign a grant to employ people from the local community to talk to local groups about their needs and their ideas which could be the basis of plans for the Royal Docks. Funds are available for 2 full-time or equivalent posts for four months, starting work on April 5th, 1983.

One post will be co-ordination, publicity and organisation of the premises where the project will be based. This post is likely to be filled by one full-time worker. The other two posts will involve talking with local trades unions, tenants associations, youth, women, leisure and other groups and encouraging them to put their ideas. Salary at £633 per month for full-time.

No formal qualifications are needed; only knowledge of the area and most important a commitment to finding out the ideas of local workers and residents. Applications from people of any age, race or sex from: Newham Docklands Forum, c/o 54 Hume Point, Jersey Road, Custom House, E16 or telephone 476 4084 or 474 6585. Applications should be sent in by March 15th, 1983.

## What We Need is A People's Plan!

### Working Together

Since 1974 Newham Docklands Forum had been working to get local voices heard in the regeneration of the area. With funding from the GLC's Popular Planning Unit and Newham Council and support from trades unions and other organisations they began work on the plan

**“If you get together you can make a dream a reality. We've got all this land, all this water and we're trying to keep it.”** PEOPLE'S PLAN CENTRE WORKER



### The People's Plan Centre

A disused shop at 10 Pier Parade became the People's Plan Centre. Five local people were employed to visit groups and businesses and talk to local people to build an alternative.



### Popular Planning

The aim was to make the Plan out of the ideas and experiences of local people; to recognise their rights to determine the future of their area. Visits were made to local businesses still operating in the docks, Tower Block campaigns, mother and toddler groups, young people's groups and many others to hear their solutions for the area.

**“And I think the local people should have a say in what is in their area, cause they have got to live there, it's their environment and they should have a say not only down Docklands but in every area.”** Local resident, 1983.

LOCAL RESIDENT

The Plan Centre was open most days and surgeries were held in local areas. Reaching all sections of a community divided over STOLport in the four months before the inquiry was not easy. Community-led planning has to be an ongoing process so the work of the Plan carried on after the Inquiry.



The People's Plan Centre opening celebrations May 1983

### An Alliance Between Groups and Agencies

Many of these techniques are common now but they were innovative at the time. The experience of the Plan also shows that 'community-led planning' is often an alliance between groups, local government and agencies with shared objectives. And there were challenges that were not fully met, such as involving black and ethnic minority residents.