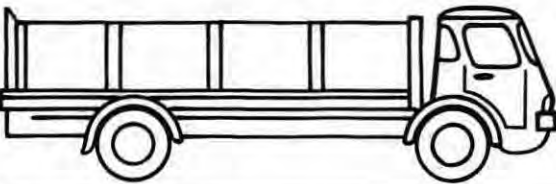


FIRST ISSUE!



ROUTES



Limehouse Motorway News

Price 3p

27 September 1979

planners declare WAR!

WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR LOCAL PEOPLE, THE PLANNERS HAVE CHOSEN ROUTE 3 FOR THE NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD. THIS ROUTE MEANS:

- Demolition of 285 MORE HOMES than the other routes being considered.
 - Much more environmental disruption.
 - Noise and pollution will affect thousands.
- Tower Hamlets Council's Development Committee agreed to this by a narrow 4-3 vote. And then, simply to avoid confrontation with Tower Hamlets, the GLC agreed also.
- What is so absurd is that the GLC officers' report shows that Route 5 would be MUCH BETTER than Route 3 for locals.
- It would be much better for bus and rail users.
 - It would be much better for local traffic access, cyclists and pedestrians.
 - Fewer homes, public buildings and historic buildings would be affected by noise and pollution.
 - And there would be less disruption during construction.

LOCALS IGNORED

Last February the GLC carried out a public consultation exercise to find out which

route local people preferred. The answer came back loud and clear.

ALMOST 60% FAVOURED ROUTE 5 which goes between Limehouse Basin and the Thames and joins up with the Highway.

LESS THAN 20% WANTED ROUTE 3. Yet incredibly, this is the Route the planners chose.

WHY?

So why have the planners chosen Route 3?

They say that people WANT to have their homes demolished as the flats are in bad condition.

The Walter Edwards Estate Tenants Association is already *continued on page 2*

TENANTS TO DEFY COUNCIL VANDALS

SHOCKED AND HORRIFIED THAT THEIR HOMES ARE TO BE DEMOLISHED BECAUSE THEY ARE NEAR THE PROPOSED ROAD, TENANTS IN THE WALTER EDWARDS ESTATE ARE DETERMINED TO FIGHT BACK.



John and Rita Dyer, planning the campaign.

The decision to demolish the 86 homes was taken last Wednesday at the Council's Development Committee. It was decided to rezone the land for industry.

INCREDIBLE

The Council's officers recommended that the blocks *continued on page 4*

BRING & BUY

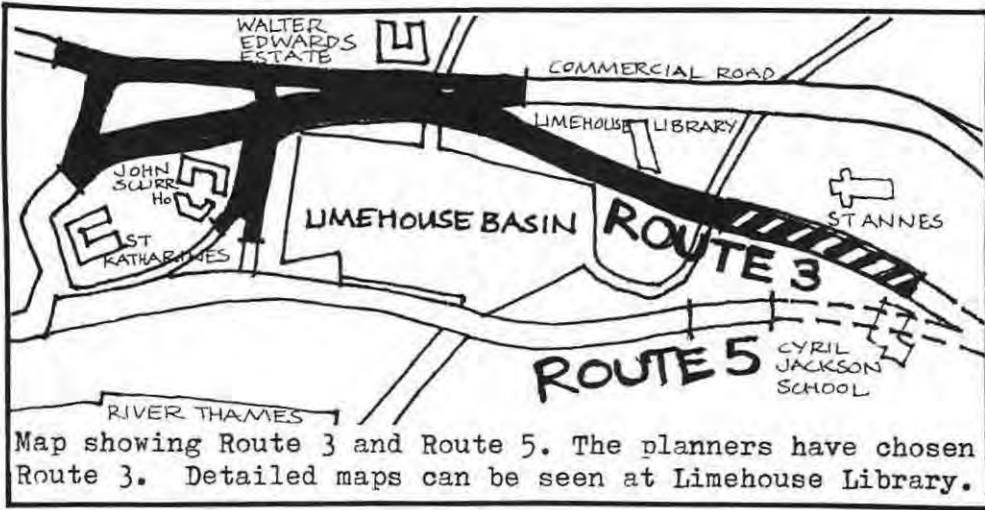
2.30PM SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 29TH

Limehouse Road Action Group are having a Bring and Buy Sale at ST ANNES CHURCHYARD. Any home made produce, Bric-a-brac, jumble etc will be welcomed.

IF YOU LIVE IN THE LIMEHOUSE AREA AND ARE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD THEN 'ROUTES' IS YOUR PAPER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WRITE LETTERS OR ARTICLES, DRAW CARTOONS, TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS, OR HELP WITH LAYOUT OF FUTURE ISSUES THEN CONTACT ROUTES C/O 13 NEWELL STREET LONDON E14 OR CONTACT ONE OF THE LARRAG MEMBERS LISTED ON PAGE 3

Additional copies can be obtained from LARRAG members listed on page 3 or from most local newsagents. POSTAL ROUTES - For those living far away (like planners), ROUTES can be obtained by post at 20p a copy (includes 1st class postage). Send £1 to the address above which will cover five issues. ADVERTISEMENTS - will be printed in future issues. Cost 10p per line. Displays 50p per column inch.

Note. Views expressed in ROUTES are not necessarily official LARRAG policy.



secret plans by a private company to develop the Limehouse Basin. The company, BBRK Ltd, want to build a marina, luxury hotel and a fake disneyland-style Victorian village for tourists. They prefer Route 3 to Route 5.

The planners knew about this plan when they chose Route 3. It is obvious that they care more about future speculative developers than they do about the people they are supposed to be working for. THEY ARE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE 285 HOMES AND TO SUBJECT THOUSANDS TO NOISE, POLLUTION AND DISRUPTION FOR THE SAKE OF TOURISTS AND PRIVATE DEVELOPERS.

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telling them forcibly that this is NOT TRUE for tenants in Brunton, Regent and Hardie Houses.

And what about those people in other blocks to be demolished - John Scurr House and Joseph Irwin House? Virtually no new housing is now being built because of the cuts.

WHERE WILL PEOPLE GO? WILL IT BE IN THIS AREA? WILL IT BE ANY BETTER? WHAT WILL THE RENTS BE? The planners don't seem to care whether people WANT to be forced out of Limehouse.



"Participation" in Tower Hamlets

If people are living in bad conditions, and want to move, they should be moved to better housing anyway. It should not need a new road to move them. The old flats should then be modernised and given to all those people in desperate housing need. At a time of massive cuts in house building, it is crazy to bulldoze ANY housing.

INTOLERABLE

What is almost worse is the fate of those people living in Kiln Court and Kotoko House. These flats are owned by the GLC. In choosing Route 3, Tower Hamlets stipulated that Kotoko House and perhaps Kiln Court should be demolished as the new road 'would make living conditions intolerable.' BUT THE GLC HAS REFUSED TO AGREE THAT THEY SHOULD BE DEMOLISHED. SO THE FLATS WILL REMAIN AND THE TENANTS WILL BE FORCED TO LIVE IN 'INTOLERABLE' CONDITIONS.

CHILDREN SUFFER TOO

The planners also say that Route 3 is better because Route 5 would demolish Cyril Jackson Primary School. What they seem to ignore is that Route 3 will go right through the school's playground. SO THERE WILL BE MASSIVE DISRUPTION AND DANGER FOR OUR CHILDREN FOR SEVERAL YEARS DURING CONSTRUCTION. A new school on a nearby site might be better in the first place.

MYSTERY REVEALED

What the planners are really concerned about is the 'development potential' of the Limehouse Basin. They say that Route 5 would do more harm to the 'development potential' of the Basin than Route 3.

But what is this mysterious 'development potential'?

All was revealed by the disclosure last month of

BRING BACK BRUNEL

The future of Limehouse Basin is of course important. But Route 5 need not harm it. If the planners want to keep the Basin as a working dock, they could build a swing bridge. Better still they could put the road underneath in a tunnel. This would be better for everyone. GLC planners say that it is impossible to build a tunnel. BUT THIS IS NONSENSE.

The difficulties can and should be overcome. If the planners want a road and also want to preserve the Basin entrance, it's up to them to do it WITHOUT CLOBBERING LIMEHOUSE. They should not take the easy way out at OUR expense. WE DIDN'T ASK FOR THE ROAD.

If engineers could build the Rotherhithe tunnel in 1908, then a tunnel under a dock entrance in 1980 is chicken-feed.

RAIL LINK FOR DOGS

The planners also seem to have forgotten about the 'development potential' of the old viaduct which would be destroyed by Route 3. WHY COULD IT NOT BE OPENED UP AS A RAILWAY AGAIN? IT COULD SERVE LIMEHOUSE, POPLAR AND THE ISLE OF DOGS. MAYBE EVEN GREENWICH. ●

Locals Fight Back!

Although Route 3 has been chosen by the officials, THE PLANS CAN STILL BE CHANGED! The Limehouse and Ratcliffe Road Action Group (LARRAG) has launched a campaign to make sure they will be.

There are two ways to change the plans:

1. At the Public Inquiry - probably in 1981.
2. By persuading the Council and the GLC to change their minds, This would be better because Public Inquiries are time consuming and expensive. The councillors who control Tower Hamlets and the GLC are elected. THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO ELECT THEM. So far they have been hoodwinked by the planners. They must be persuaded to change their minds. If they refuse to do so they must be told that they will not be re-elected at the next election.

What YOU can do ****

- Form a tenants association in your estate or street if there is not one already.
- Go and see your local councillor and MP and tell them what you think. Alternatively phone or write to them.
- If you are a member of a trade union or any other organization, get them to pass a resolution of support and send it to the LARRAG Secretary
- Join LARRAG.
- Help raise money for LARRAG. Money is needed for printing leaflets and posters and obtaining legal and technical advice. Jumble sales, dances, raffles etc are all good ways of raising money.
- Sell ROUTES. Copies may be obtained from LARRAG members listed below or local newsagents.



LARRAG wants to print a poster, and is holding a competition for the best design. Entries must be handed to one of the people listed below before the next meeting on 9th October. The competition will be judged at the meeting.

What is LARRAG?

LARRAG stands for the Limehouse and Ratcliffe Road Action Group. It consists of people who live or work in the area, whose lives would be drastically affected by the new road.

LARRAG is not convinced that there is a need for a new road at all. There may be other ways of reducing traffic congestion. But if

a road is built, LARRAG IS DETERMINED TO SEE THAT IT DOES AS LITTLE HARM AS POSSIBLE TO THE AREA.

Meetings of LARRAG members are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 Brewster House, Three Colt Street, at 8pm. The next two meetings will take place on 9th October and 15th November. They are open to everyone.

What does LARRAG do?

1. LARRAG sends letters to councillors, planners and MPs.
2. LARRAG has made detailed criticisms of all the planners reports. (If you want to see them, contact one of the members listed below.)
3. LARRAG is trying to gain support from other local organisations. It has already

- gained the support of the Joint Docklands Action Group, Shadwell ward Labour Party, Tower Hamlets Liberal Party, and the local Conservative Party.
4. LARRAG organises local social events to raise money.
5. LARRAG has launched this news-sheet to keep people informed.

CONTACTS AND INFO

Membership of LARRAG costs 50p which helps to cover costs. If you wish to join or just know more about it, then contact one of the following:

● Father George Sidebotham (Chairman), St Katharine's Foundation, Butcher Row, E14.

● John Chesshyre (Secretary) 13 Newell St. E14 7HP Tel 987 4943 (home), 636 5488 (work).

● Margaret Selby (Treasurer) 28 Midhurst House, Salmon Lane, E14. Tel 515 6818.

● John Bascombe, 6 Brewster House, E14 638 0683 (work)

● John Dyer, 9 Regent House, Commercial Road, E14 7LH. Tel 790 9369.

● Caroline Easton, Caroline Lwin and Nick Waters, 4 Newell Street, E14 7HR. Tel 515 8541

● Chris Idle, 5 Newell Street, E14. Tel 987 1502.

● Peter Polish, Joint Docklands Action Group, 2 Cable Street, E1 8JG. Tel 480 5324.

● Thomas Reay, 4 Joseph Irwin House, E14.



the threatened homes
by ways

*JUMBLE COLLECTED ANY TIME
by Margaret Selby, 28 Midhurst
House, Salmon Lane. 515 6818.

*GOT A ROOM TO SPARE?
LARRAG is looking for an
office. Preferably shop front
or with easy street access.
Any offers?

*CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
Some local people are trying
to set up a co-operative
development agency to develop
the Limehouse Basin. Anyone
interested should contact:
Basin Steering Group,
4 Newell Street, E14

*HELP WANTED BUILDING BARN
fences etc. at Stepney
Stepping Stones Farm, opposite
St. Dunstan's church. Weekends



THE HEADBOY OF A LOCAL SCHOOL
WRITES:

Docklands desperately need an
injection of new industries
to bring back the people and
the life to the East End.
The space for industry is
available, road and rail
communications are sufficient
in some areas and can be
developed to cope for the
needs of industry in others.
In an area of high unemploy-
ment, labour is available.

continued from page 1.

be rehabilitated. And
Hardie House was to be taken
out of residential use to
provide a screen against
traffic noise. But incred-
ibly, LOCAL COUNCILLOR Arthur
Dorrell proposed that they
should be demolished instead.
The Walter Edwards Estate
Tenants Association is angry
because HE DID NOT BOTHER
TO ASK THEM WHAT THEY WANTED.

The Association includes
both tenants in the block to
be demolished and some ad-
jacent new blocks. They
have just done a survey
which shows that 90% OF THE
TENANTS WANT REHABILITATION.
NONE WANT AN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

WANT TO STAY

Tenants living in the blocks
to be demolished would mostly
like to stay if they are
modernised. And those in the
newer blocks fear that if the
older blocks are demolished
they themselves will be ex-
posed to more noise.

People in Anglia House, a
tower block, already complain

The only thing stopping indust-
ry moving back is the fact
that Central Government has
not offered firms sufficient
financial advantages to
re-locate in Docklands.

Industry in the area would
attract people back to
Docklands, providing that
Central and Local Govern-
ment also make funds avail-
able to improve amenities in
this deprived area.

about noise from the existing
Commercial Road. The new road
will make life difficult.
Demolition of the older blocks
will make it intolerable.

In preparing the resolution
at the Development Committee,
Dorrell claimed he had 'had
representations' from locals
that they should be demolished.
Was he fabricating the
evidence?

The Tenants Association is
holding a meeting (Thurs 27th
Sept, at the Rents Office,
Anglia House.) demanding that
Councillor Dorrell comes and
explains his actions. THEY
ARE APPALLED THAT HE SEEMS TO
BELIEVE THAT FUTURE DEVELOP-
MENT PLANS FOR LIMEHOUSE
BASIN ARE MORE IMPORTANT
THAN THEIR HOMES. THEY ARE
DEMANDING THAT THE DECISION
TO DEMOLISH THE FLATS IS
REVERSED AND THAT THE ROUTE
FOR THE NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD
BE RECONSIDERED.

DINOSAURS

Chairman of Docklands Forum,
Kevin Halpin, said yesterday
'It is disgusting that a
Borough with thousands of
young couples on the waiting
list should be pulling down
86 flats. Those who support
new roads like this are like
dinosaurs - short of brains
in important places. Roads
today, and those who support
them are outdated and antiq-
uated. The energy problem,
the roads, the articulated
lorries and the great trans-
port problems they create
will be swept aside by those
who want an integrated
transport system!'

Docklands will only be
improved by bringing industry
and people back; multi-
million pound hotels and
yachting marinas will
provide the wealthy with a
playground until they find
somewhere else to play, and
do nothing for the residents
of the area.

Daniel Perkins

MORE LETTERS IN NEXT ISSUE.

IF YOU WRITE EM WE'LL PRINT EM