

# The Politics Behind Turning the Museum of London, Docklands from an Abandoned Factory into a Green Space

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## Overview

The LDDC supported the Development of the Docklands. There were several attempts to develop the Docklands that failed, as there were several protests from the Association of Island Communities. It was finally completed by the Museum of London (MoL), funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLH fund). This resulted in an abandoned slave sugar mill turning into a green space.

## Key Findings

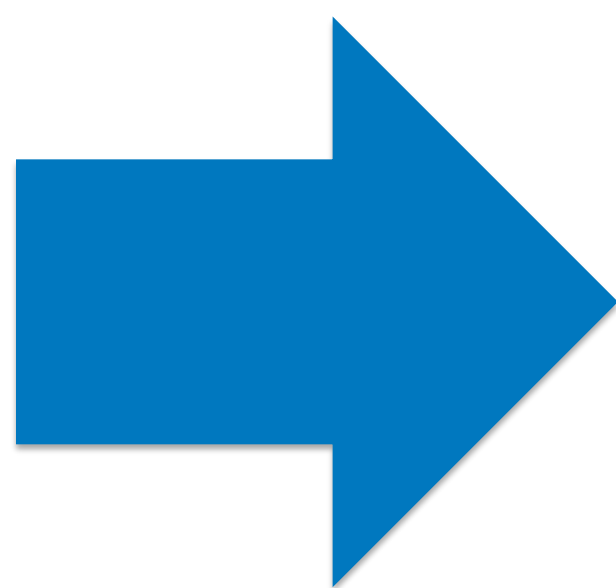
- Proposal to renovate was met with protests from locals who believed they would be pushed out
- The first attempt was by a US developer in 1985 but funding and support were lacking
- The MoL ran into legislative issues such as the MoL Act of 1965 did not allow for operation outside of London
- In 1997, the NLH funded the renovation, but AEA reported that management was inadequate and inexperienced, they were underprepared for the opening, and there were not enough resources, so it was delayed
- It finally opened in 2003

## Impact

- Environmental organizations continue to attempt to convert abandoned spaces into green spaces and they run into bureaucratic pushback The MoL remains open and successful today
- It is important to look at how the community reacted to this change, as we see similar reactions today



**Internal Sections of Nos 1 and 9 Warehouses:** This helps us to examine what the building looked like before renovation when it was still a sugar mill in 1827.



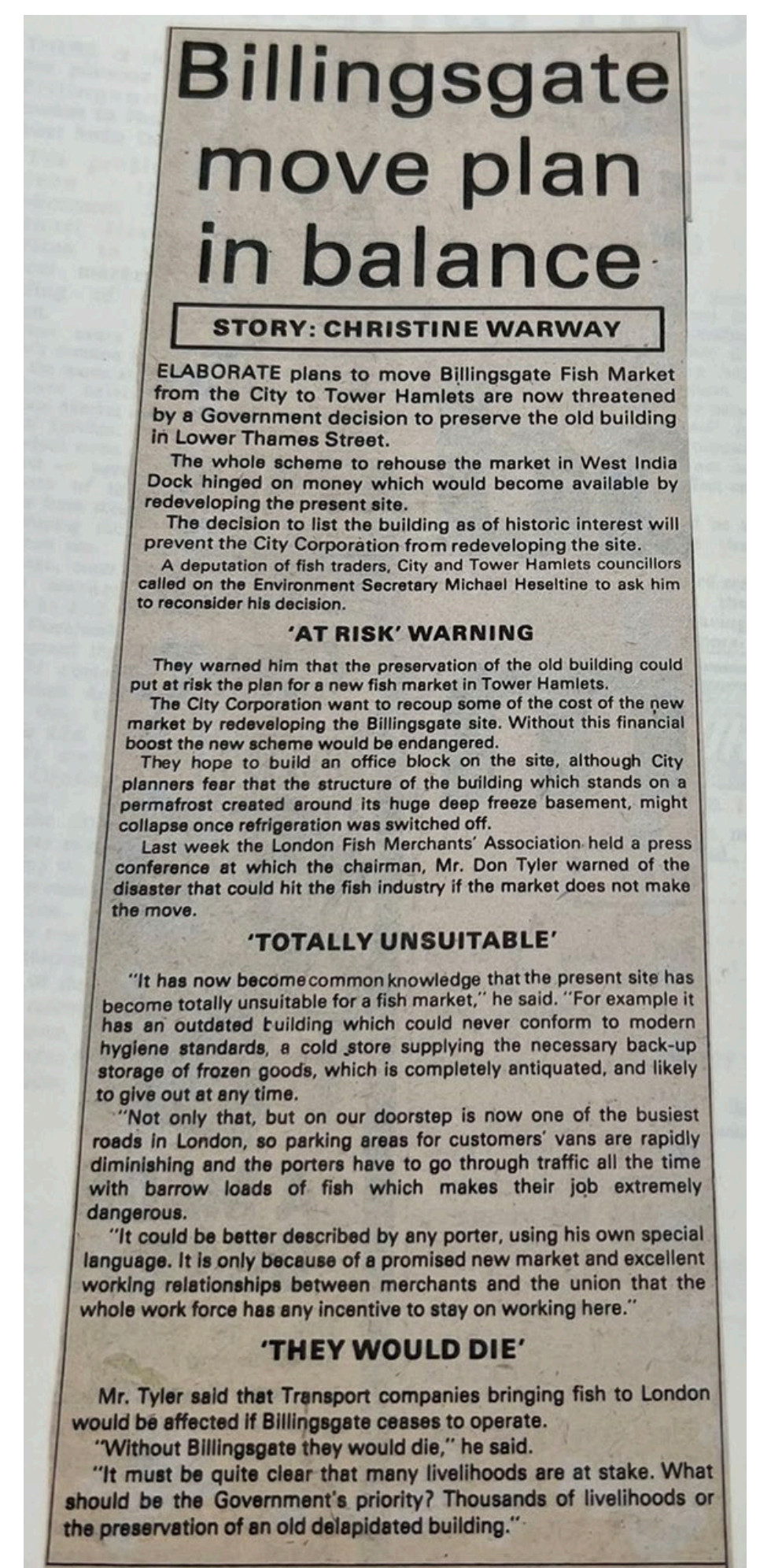
**Museum of London, Docklands (external) as of March 10, 2024:** After the transformation into a green space, the building looks drastically different than it did in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



**March Led by Peter Wade to the Island of Prince Charles:** This was meant to signify the "death of the community" with the development of the Docklands, and reflects the feelings of the Community



**Political Cartoon Made Because of the Proposal to Turn Canary Wharf into A Business District:** Demonstrates the discourse in the community surrounding the new development



**Hackney Advertiser Tower Hamlets:** Describing how the development of the Docklands would put the citizens at risk as it is totally unsuitable.

## Bibliography:

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4. Warway, Christine, "Billingsgate move plan in balance" *Hackney Advertiser* [Tower Hamlets], 18 April 1980, National Archives.
5. *Internal Sections of Nos. 1 and 9 Warehouses*. 1827, Museum of London, Docklands.

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