

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
On 25 June 2018

HC/09/2018

Progress Report from Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing

REPORTING PERIOD

This progress report covers the period from March to June 2018, where two Task Force meetings have been conducted.

MEETINGS HELD AND THE MAJOR OUTCOME, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thirtieth Meeting – 15 March 2018

2. The Task Force discussed the following issues/items -

(a) Enhancement of the Tsuen Wan Waterfront

- Following the site visit on 19 January 2018 and with the assistance of two volunteered planners from the Hong Kong Institute of Planning, a place-making exercise had been conducted for the project. At the meeting, the Harbour Unit and planners presented the latest proposal. According to the proposed timetable, some preliminary designs for certain “quick-win” initiatives would be prepared from May to September 2018. The related enhancement works were targeted to commence in Q3 2018 and set for completion in Q3 2019.
- Members appreciated the efforts of the team and considered the proposal of having three different thematic zones a good approach in taking forward different initiatives along the waterfront. Members suggested incorporating more local characteristics of Tsuen Wan into the design.
- The Task Force concluded that when developing the long-term vision of the project, it would be important to allow more public participation and to preserve the fluid circulation and integration between the zones.

(b) Proposed Short Term Tenancy (STT) for Fee-paying Public Car Park at Chi Kiang Street

- Further to the previous consultation at the 29th meeting of the Task Force in November 2017, the Highways Department and the Transport Department provided supplementary information and further consulted Members' views on the proposed STT public car park at Chi Kiang Street.
- Members understood the need for a substitute STT car park after releasing the public car park at San Ma Tau Street (KX 2010) to facilitate the construction of the Central Kowloon Route. However, members were still dissatisfied about the lack of information about a medium-to-long-term plan to address the parking problem within the To Kwa Wan area so that another waterfront STT car park would not be required after the current extension expires.
- The relevant departments were asked to provide more information to the Task Force again at the next meeting. It was concluded that, if the Task Force was to support the proposal eventually, the arrangement should only last for one year and not be further extended.

(c) Progress Update on Enhanced Avenue of Stars (AoS)

- The Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the New World Development updated Members on the latest work progress of the enhancement of the AoS.
- Members expressed appreciation to the project team and praised many aspects of the innovative design of the AoS project led by the world renowned design team. Members also raised specific comments on the provision of landing steps, crowd management, connectivity and the incorporation of water-friendly facilities. The project team was asked to update Members at a suitable juncture, especially about the management issue.

(d) West Kowloon Waterfront Pedestrian Walkway Connection between Yau Ma Tei and Tai Kok Tsui

- The Harbour Business Forum presented the preliminary findings of a consultancy study on a proposed at-grade or elevated pedestrian walkway connecting Yau Ma Tei and

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Tai Kok Tsui along the Yau Ma Tei Public Cargo Working Area.

- Members showed their support to the proposal as the proposed pedestrian walkway could enhance connectivity between the hinterland and the harbourfront. Members further raised comments on the construction costs, the design features and the feasibility of incorporating cycle tracks into the walkway.
- It was concluded that the elevated walkway option appeared to be more feasible and it was suggested that the Harbour Unit and relevant Government Departments should consider exploring up this initiative.

Thirty-First Meeting – 16 May 2018

3. The Task Force discussed the following issues/items -

(a) Proposed STT for Fee-paying Public Car Park at Chi Kiang Street

- Further to the consultation at the 30th meeting of the Task Force in March 2018 and the informal session held on 11 May 2018, the Highways Department and Transport Department consulted Members on the proposed STT public car park at Chi Kiang Street and provided supplementary information on the short and medium to long-term measures to increase car parking spaces in Kowloon City District.
- As a short-term measure to deal with the shortage in the Kowloon City District, Members had no in-principle objection to the proposed STT carpark at Chi Kiang Street till 31 March 2019. For the medium to long-term measures, the proponent departments were urged to explore the feasibility of underground parking say underneath the Hoi Shum Park and to apply automated parking system. Other than increasing the car parking spaces continuously, the use of public transportation should be further encouraged to curb the demand for car parking, especially with the opening of Shatin-Central Link. Other traffic management measures to contain car growth should also be explored.

(b) Transforming Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier Bus Terminus into a Piazza

- The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects presented a proposal of transforming the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier Bus Terminus into a piazza.
- Some Members supported the proposal as it would enhance the vibrancy of the harbourfront. On the other hand, some Members raised concerns to the proposal which might require the relocation of the bus terminus and re-routing of a number of bus routes and hence might not have local and public support.
- The Task Force concluded that all Members would like to see improvements to the existing environment of the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier and the bus terminus area. As a way forward, relevant Government bureaux and departments should be invited to consider various improvements that could be made to the area holistically without confining to the proposal of piazza.

(c) Proposed Comprehensive Residential Development at NKIL No. 6549, Off Hing Wah Street West, Cheung Sha Wan

- The private proponent briefed Members on the indicative scheme of the proposed comprehensive residential development, which would provide public open space and waterfront promenade at the “Comprehensive Development Area” (CDA) site off Hing Wah Street West, Cheung Sha Wan.
- Members enquired about the management, opening hours, provision of bollards and use of renewable energy in the proposed waterfront promenade. In order to ensure a coherent design of the promenades under this CDA site and the adjoining ones, it was suggested that some standardized design principles and guidelines might be adopted. Regarding the residential development, some Members raised concerns over the ventilation and connectivity with the neighbouring area.
- The Task Force concluded that Members showed in-principle support to the proposed development and their comments would be conveyed to the Town Planning Board for further consideration.

(d) Progress Update on the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD)

- The WKCD Authority updated Members on the development progress of WKCD, including the Xiqu Centre, the Artist Square Development Area, the Art Park, the Hong Kong Palace Museum, the “Art, Commerce and Exhibitions”, together with other improvement efforts on marine access, the Austin Road Pedestrian Linkage System and the Artist Square Bridge.
- Members raised comments on the pedestrian connectivity of WKCD, design of the “simplified” Artist Square Bridge and the provision of landing facilities. The WKCD Authority was asked to update Members at a suitable juncture.

Secretariat

**Task Force on Harbourfront Developments
in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
June 2018**