

ANNEX 4

CHERISHED PLACES, AN ENDEARING HOME

1. Retaining a sense of familiarity, home and common identity is important and we will continue to safeguard our built heritage and designate places with unique charm as identity nodes. More community spaces will be provided to foster bonding while local identity and heritage will be integrated as new housing estates are developed.

Conserving our built heritage

2. Our built heritage forms an important part of our national identity and hold collective memories for our people. To safeguard our built heritage, over 70 buildings will be gazetted for conservation as part of the Master Plan, adding to the over 7,100 buildings that have already been protected.

3. These include Queenstown Library, the first branch library in Singapore; Alexandra Hospital, which was established in 1938; the former Commonwealth Avenue Wet Market with its iconic parabolic-vaulted roof; and former military buildings and selected bungalows in Seletar.

New identity nodes at Holland Village, Serangoon Garden and Jalan Kayu

4. The Identity Plan was introduced in 2002 to retain and enhance places with strong character and distinctive identity. At that time, 15 such places were identified to safeguard and enhance their unique characteristics. In the Draft Master Plan 2013, three new identity nodes will be added - Holland Village, Jalan Kayu and Serangoon Garden – in recognition of their unique charm and wide appeal to the community.

5. Popular with locals and visitors alike, **Holland Village** with its cafes and eateries will be enhanced with a new extension that includes new public spaces and mixed-use developments with an urban village feel. This new extension will further enhance the existing character of the area and will be pedestrian oriented so more can enjoy the charm and vibrant lifestyle of this well-loved area.

6. The iconic **Serangoon Garden** circus near Chomp Chomp, one of our favourite food haunts, will be retained as a key identity marker. Street Block Plans will be drawn up to sensitively guide the urban design for new developments and ensure that the Serangoon Garden estate retains its character and charm.

7. Over at **Jalan Kayu**, improvement works will be carried out to enhance the access and visitor experience to the quiet area. The works will include the addition of new pedestrian pavements, improved links to the nearby Thanggam LRT station and the planting of more greenery.

Provide more community spaces to foster bonding

8. Community spaces are important areas in our housing estates where people gather and form collective memories. Such community spaces include town plazas, hawker centres, parks and other public spaces.

9. To help foster a stronger sense of identity and provide a public space for community events, Bedok and Yishun will see the addition of new town plazas at the town centres.

10. The familiar hawker centre is also a community space where people bond over the love of good food. New hawker centres will feature universal designs catering to the needs of all ages. They will also be integrated with other community facilities.

11. Various community facilities will be co-located and integrated into one-stop hubs. These hubs not only provide added convenience for residents, but also provide space for communities to form strong bonds and identity. Some examples include the Tampines Town Hub with a mega community club, library, Housing & Development Board branch office and other amenities, and the integrated development at Woodlands that co-locates studio apartment blocks with a senior activity centre and other amenities for the elderly to age-in-place. Other similar hubs include the future Wisma Geylang Serai with a heritage gallery, civic plaza, pedestrian mall, community club and childcare services, as well as the Ci Yuan Community Club at Hougang that will be co-located with a hawker centre.

Integrating local and identity and heritage with community involvement

12. What roots Singaporeans are familiar places that are close to home. As new towns are developed, local history and heritage will be woven into the design and features of housing estates. For example, as part of the future Bidadari Estate, part of Upper Aljunied Road will be turned into a heritage walk. There will also be new heritage trails at Bedok, Jurong, and Toa Payoh by 2014 to highlight the stories behind the streets and landmarks in these areas.

13. The community can get involved in these heritage efforts. At Singapore's first arts and heritage community museum, Our Museum @ Taman Jurong, residents can co-create art and heritage exhibitions. They can also volunteer as guides at the museum and conduct heritage programmes for fellow residents.