

Talk of the Town



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**THANK YOU FOR PLAYING YOUR PART
IN BUILDING A RESILIENT COMMUNITY TOGETHER
DURING THIS COVID-19 PERIOD**



OUR LATEST DEFENCE AGAINST COVID-19: SELF-DISINFECTING COATING ON PUBLIC LIFTS' BUTTONS

Check out Page 2 for more information on how a new coating can help safeguard us against viruses and bacteria.

INTRODUCING HOLLAND BUKIT PANJANG TOWN COUNCIL'S LATEST PREVENTIVE MEASURE: SELF-DISINFECTING COATING

Changi Airport Group's (CAG) philanthropic arm, Changi Foundation, has donated about 650 litres of a self-disinfecting protective coating to all 16 Town Councils in Singapore. This coating has now been applied on about 1.5 million lift buttons across 26,000 HDB lifts, including those in Holland Bukit-Panjang Town. The unique feature of this sdst coating is in its self-disinfecting properties which is eco-friendly and safe on human skin. The coating keeps viruses and bacteria off the buttons, and can stay effective for up to three months.

The sdst coating "self-cleans" in two ways. Firstly, it has a needle-like structure that "pierces" the outer membrane of viruses, bacteria and fungi, thereby reducing their ability to infect completely. Secondly, proprietary bonding agents in the coating allow it to adhere tightly to surfaces at a molecular level, such that even with repeated scrubbing and cleaning, the coating does not leach.

According to CAG, it was found to be effective in providing longer-lasting protection at Changi Airport before COVID-19 hit. This additional layer of protection complements HBPTC's heightened cleaning measures to help protect residents during this period.

Dr Teo Ho Pin, Chairman of Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council said, "We have stepped up efforts to clean and disinfect our blocks so as to reduce bacteria and virus transmission in view of COVID-19 situation. The use of this new self-disinfecting protective coating on our lift buttons will further reduce bacteria and virus transmission. As hard objects may scrape the coating off, we seek users' cooperation not to press the button with pointed objects such as keys."

Dr Teo would like to thank Changi Foundation for their generosity and all our cleaners for their dedication in carrying out the coating process.



Bacteria levels before (top) and after (bottom)

RAMPING UP PREVENTIVE EFFORTS IN OUR TOWN

During this COVID-19 period, we are grateful to our cleaners for their dedication and hard work as this increased frequency comes on top of their regular cleaning jobs and assistance in helping residents remove bulky items. During this period, residents understand that our cleaners will not step into their homes so as to reduce contact risks.

Our frontline staff have also been manning screening stations to support contact tracing efforts should the need arise.

To see how our residents also played an important role towards fighting COVID-19, please go to page 8



Staircases



Exercise equipment



Playgrounds



Lifts



Temperature screening station at Holland-Bukit Panjang Town council office

The New Year is a time for reflections and resolutions! As we celebrate the start of a new decade, let's hear from our MPs as they share their memories and hopes for Holland-Bukit Panjang Town.

DR TEO HO PIN, BUKIT PANJANG

Pick three words to describe Bukit Panjang.

The three words are **"Connectivity"**, **"Mobility"** and **"Activity"**.

We have been building Bukit Panjang as a seamless town to encourage our residents to live an active, healthy and happy life. The linkways connect block to block and to transport nodes such as LRT stations and bus stops. The many covered linkways and drop-off points also improve connectivity by allowing our residents to move freely, rain or shine. Bukit Panjang is also 100% barrier free! Almost 90% of our blocks have lifts that are wheelchair-accessible and stop at every floor. The Town Council also provides social amenities such as community halls and community gardens to support our grassroots organisations and community partners in bringing our residents together.

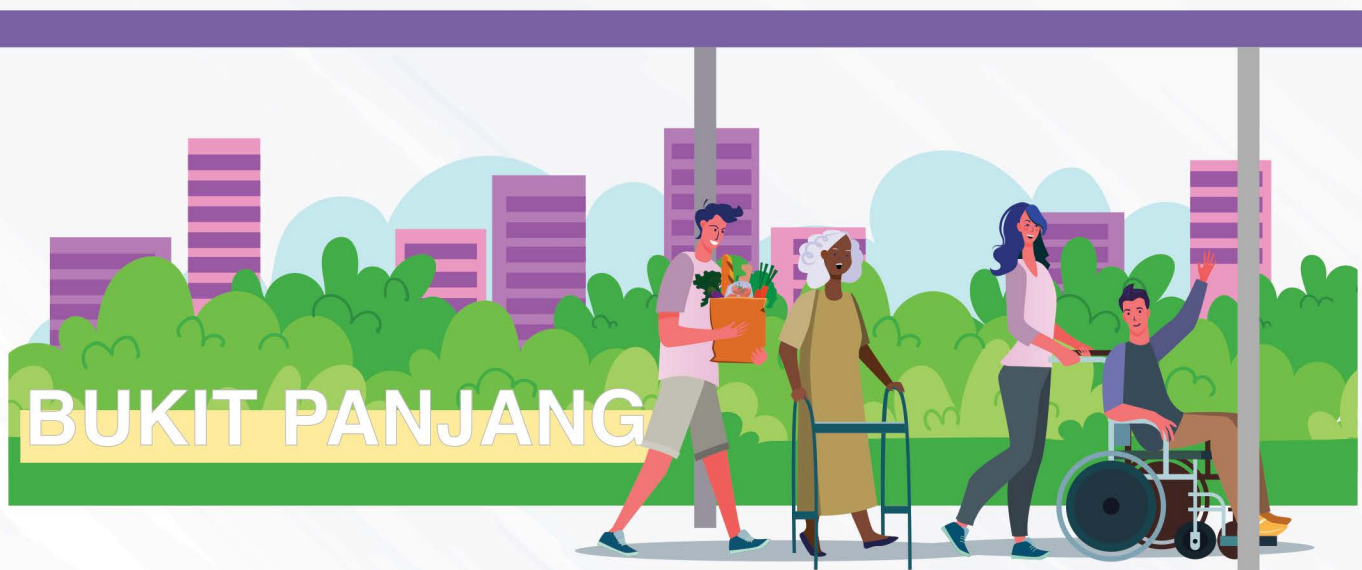
What is your fondest memory of Bukit Panjang and why?

living environment and spend time together at community activities to stay active, healthy and happy. We must continue to make our town green and sustainable both in terms of landscaping the town and adopting green lifestyle such as practising the 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle).

My fondest memory of Bukit Panjang is to see the transformation of our town from an "Ulu town" to a "well-loved home" over the last 23 years. Bukit Panjang residents have witnessed the transformation of our town over the years. We have upgraded all our neighbourhood precincts with better amenities and our MRT, LRT, and buses connect the residents to all parts of Singapore conveniently. We have started Home Improvement Program to upgrade the flats and will build more amenities to support an ageing community and enhance the quality of life of our residents especially seniors in our community.

What is your vision for Bukit Panjang?

To make our town **"an active and vibrant town"** where residents can enjoy a good quality



DR VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN, CASHEW

What is your fondest memory of Cashew?

The old Bukit Panjang School (now Bukit Panjang Primary School) used to be located where Junction 10 is currently located. My parents were both teachers at the school and that was where they met and fell in love. It is nice how life comes a full circle, since Junction 10 now falls under my care in Cashew constituency.

Where is your personal favorite spot in Cashew and why?

The bustling coffeeshop at Block 163A Gangsa Road! Uncle Ke Kou Mian's koka noodles are my go-to 'comfort food'. I usually order it with lots of chilli.

What do you usually do and where do you go to unwind?

I unwind from work by going on local leave and usually explore our nature reserves and green spaces together with my wife. There is so much greenery to enjoy, not just in Holland-Bukit Timah but also all over Singapore. I am looking forward to when the Rail Corridor fully reopens, giving everyone access to barrier-free leisure all the way to the south of Singapore and other parts of the island.



MS SIM ANN, BUKIT TIMAH

What is your fondest memory of Bukit Timah and why?

Visiting Bukit Timah Market and Food Centre as a young kid with my late grandmother. Those were the days when poultry was slaughtered right at the market floor — pretty gruesome but definitely memorable, especially for a young child.

Favourite food? He Zhong Carrot Cake — they make a distinctive *chye tow kuay* which is super addictive.

What are some memorable instances of bonding you have witnessed that inspired you? Can you share some stories?

When the chemistry is right, amazing acts of caring and sharing can happen between neighbours. One such story involves a resident named Rowena, who made friends with a frail elderly lady living nearby. Rowena cooks for her, sees to her comfort and well-being, and even makes alternative care arrangements for the elderly lady when she has to visit her own family living in Hong Kong. We nominated Rowena for an award last year and we were so happy that she received the recognition! Our residents are smart, warm, and always ready to contribute good ideas. They keep me going!

What are your hopes for Bukit Timah town in 2020?

We will be busy with a major plan – to combine the Bukit Timah CC, Market and Food Centre into an integrated community building. We will be getting into detailed planning and design. I am excited because this is our chance to create something unique for the residents of Bukit Timah.



MR LIANG ENG HWA, ZHENGHUA

What is your vision and hope for Zhenghua and why?

A liveable and caring home; where seniors can live well, where families are well supported, where we pursue green and sustainable way of living and where we live harmoniously as one community; where the children grow up with fond memories of their home and neighbourhood and where seniors live well and live active. I also look forward to the completion of the Senja Polyclinic and Senja Hawker Centre in 2020.

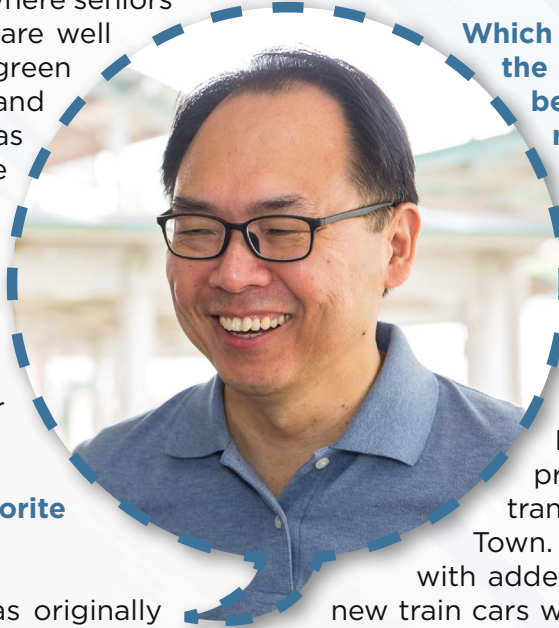
Where is your personal favorite spot in Zhenghua and why?

Zhenghua Nature Park. It was originally earmarked for housing but we managed to persuade the planners to retain it as a nature

park. Now a place for young and seniors to appreciate nature, the park has enhanced the quality of life in Zhenghua.

Which completed project has gotten the most positive feedback and been of greatest significance to residents?

There are now more quality and affordable childcare places to meet residents' demands. This includes a mega centre by My First Skool at Segar next to Zhenghua Nature Park. Another significant project would be the public transportation system in our Town. We have greatly enhanced it with added buses (971E, 972, 974, 976), new train cars with increased capacity, as well as the opening of the Downtown Line MRT line.



MR CHRISTOPHER DE SOUZA, ULU PANDAN

Pick three words to describe Ulu Pandan.

Homes, Greenery, Community.

What do you usually do to unwind?

My wife and I go for runs in parks. It allows us time to unwind, take in nature and all its beauty. I also record the birds we spot together in an old bird book I keep at home. Sometimes our children come along on their bicycles and they too record the birds they spot! I also enjoy running along the beautiful Ulu Pandan Canal with residents when we organise constituency runs there.

What's 2020 looking like for you?

A full calendar. Nationally, we have to overcome the COVID-19 outbreak. This means ensuring our society comes out of it stronger and more united. What this means is that we have to explain to residents the economic and social policies we are putting in place, through Budget 2020 and beyond, to surmount the challenges that the outbreak poses. This means visiting residents in their homes, holding dialogues, to explain the measures. Parallel to that is continued focus in Parliament to pass and propose laws to ensure we keep Singapore safe from new and emerging threats. So, it looks to be a very busy year.



CHECK OUT HOW OUR RESIDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS HAVE JOINED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

Zhenghua

Kelvin Lim

A ground-up initiative, Kelvin, Chye Hock, Ronny, and Benjamin came together to buy hand sanitisers to put in 169 HDB lifts and to distribute to the community for free. Sharing the costs between them, they bought the sanitisers in bulk and re-packaged them into 3,600 bottles of 50ml each. They donated 300 bottles to Fei Yue Senja Activity Centre and 300 bottles to Ghim Moh Elderly Activity Centre each, and gave out the remaining 3,000 to residents at Segar, Senja, Jelapang LRT Stations, and Greenridge Shopping Centre. The only thing they hope to get in return is to see more Singaporeans getting involved and to see more residents working together to overcome the situation!



Cashew

William Raja, PBM

Cashew Zone 1 Residents' Committee Chairman, William, was one of the volunteers during the mask distribution initiative in February 2020. Together with his fellow grassroots members, they were at the frontline of the distribution, and even delivered masks to the homes of senior citizens and residents with mobility issues. Through their Telegram channel, they also gave Cashew Zone 1 residents timely updates and news on the virus situation.



Bukit Timah

Michelle Yong



DIY Hand Sanitiser
571 views • 10 Feb 2020

MyongShowsYou
63 subscribers
Make your own hand Sanitiser

As hand sanitisers were hard to purchase during the virus outbreak, Michelle decided to teach others how to DIY them at home by creating video tutorials and posting them on YouTube. Michelle also offered to hold classes for residents during this difficult period so they could make their own sanitisers. Her efforts have provided residents a much-needed alternative as many were unable to buy sanitisers.

Ulu Pandan

Nancy Alcala Solares

Nancy and her fellow volunteers from Ulu Pandan Zone A Residents' Committee joined Mr Christopher de Souza at house visits during the outbreak to inform residents on the situation. She gave out brochures and reminded them to practise good personal hygiene at all times. Many residents were appreciative of their efforts as their advice and presence provided added assurance during this uncertain period.



Bukit Panjang

Kenneth Tan



Other than being a part of the mask distribution exercise, Kenneth, Chairman of Bukit Panjang Zone 8 Residents' Committee, played an active role in implementing precautionary measures at RC activities such as qigong and taichi. He helped measure the temperatures of residents, provided them hand sanitisers, and recorded individual names and temperatures down. Kenneth and his team were happy to help residents understand the situation better, and residents were similarly appreciative of their gestures.