

JANUARY 2024

# Talk of the Town

BUALAN KOTA  
市鎮之聲  
நகர பேச்சு

Published by Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council MCI (P) 070/12/2023



HOLLAND-BUKIT PANJANG  
TOWN COUNCIL

[www.hbptc.org.sg](http://www.hbptc.org.sg)



Visit our  
E-Newsletter!



Like and Follow  
us on Facebook!



## *Celebrating* Developments and Initiatives Around Town



pg 3-4  
Holland-Bukit Panjang Goes Green  
with LKY100



pg 5  
Bukit Panjang's Green Kampong Spirit



pg 7  
Wayfinding a Vibrant Zhenghua



# Progress Report Launch

## Celebrating Achievements and Commitment

On 13 January 2024, Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council (HBPTC) became the first Town Council to launch its progress report. MPs for Bukit Panjang Constituency and Holland-Bukit Timah GRC, Mr Liang Eng Hwa, Mr Christopher de Souza, Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and Ms Sim Ann, joined residents to celebrate the town's progress and reaffirm their commitment to its improvement. The MPs emphasised the collective effort involved, urging continued collaboration and unity in building a better home.

The event buzzed with vibrant stage performances, fringe activities showcasing grassroots initiatives, and exhibition panels offering insights into the various projects undertaken. Ms Hazel Ong, 27, expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "We don't always travel across constituencies, so this is a great way to learn about the various developments across town."

Mr Jeff, in his 50s, echoed the sentiment: "I knew our town has more covered walkways with barrier-free access than most others, but I didn't realise the magnitude of work done." As a nature enthusiast, he also appreciates the rich biodiversity in town. He commented, "There are so many green spaces that I have yet to visit all."

Meanwhile, Mr Abdul Nasir, a 67-year-old avid cyclist, was excited about the extensive cycling paths. He shared, "I have been enjoying the new cycling paths along the Nature and Rail Corridor with my cycling buddies. I look forward to exploring more green places with the cycling path extension in 2027!"

In addition to unveiling new developments, the launch event deepened residents' understanding of ongoing initiatives. Ms Nurhidaya Wati, 39, said, "Representatives of various grassroots initiatives here helped me better grasp what they are about. Now, I know how I can actively contribute to the community with my children!"

As the event concluded, HBPTC's commitment to enhancing the built environment, fostering a sustainable ecosystem in our town and strengthening community engagement lingers. With the 2025 final master plan ahead, residents can now look forward to more initiatives that will further enhance the fabric of our community.





# Holland-Bukit Panjang Goes Green with LKY100

Singapore has always been a bustling city, but in recent years, it has faced the challenge of balancing urbanisation with environmental conservation. To address this issue, the OneMillion Trees movement was launched to restore nature to the city.

As part of the initiative, the LKY100 project was established to honour the birth centenary of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew. The project aims to plant 10,000 trees, which will not only beautify the city but also provide numerous environmental benefits. The project has been going strong, and the community is encouraged to participate actively.







MPs for Bukit Panjang Constituency and Holland-Bukit Timah GRC, Mr Liang Eng Hwa, Mr Christopher de Souza, Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and Ms Sim Ann, were determined to make their estate more environmentally friendly and were on site to attribute the effort in Mr Lee's memory. To achieve this, they have planted as many trees as possible in their respective constituencies, grabbing shovels, and taking action.

Tree planting is a wonderful opportunity to unify the community and work together towards a more sustainable future. It was truly inspiring to witness the collective effort of community partners, grassroots leaders and residents as they planted the young trees. Over time, these trees will grow and add to an eco-friendlier environment for everyone.

With everyone working together, we can all contribute to turning Singapore into a city that is more in harmony with nature.





# Sign Up for Updates

**Be The First To Know Your Town's News!**



[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/HBP-TC](https://tinyurl.com/HBP-TC)



# Bukit Panjang's Green Kampong Spirit

With over 11 community gardens, Bukit Panjang revives the kampong spirit while promoting sustainability. On 29 October 2023, residents from Zones 1 to 10 and Petir converged at Blk 234A Bangkit Court for the annual Community Garden Day. There, community gardeners sold fresh, organic produce to residents and donated all proceeds to charity.

Offering local favourites like chye sim, kalia, winter melon and bitter melon, 62-year-old community gardener Ng Nam Yian shared, "We grow more than we can consume, so it is satisfying to share our produce to benefit the community."



Highlighting the event's role in cultivating a green community, Mr Chang Seng Tak, 54, expressed, "It allows us to serve the community, interact with neighbours, and exchange knowledge on gardening and sustainability."

Community gardeners Mr Ng and Mr Chang emphasised that this spirit extends beyond Community Garden Day. At the N2 Park community garden, the largest in Bukit Panjang, neighbours are regularly invited to share in the harvest. With the garden opening on 20 September 2023, Mr Chang said, "We hope our community garden will bring more residents together and inspire green practices."

As more community gardens sprout and more residents engage in events like Gardener's Day, the kampong spirit sees a vibrant revival in modern Singapore, with a green twist.





## Zhenghua Food Rescue

# Nourishing Community Welfare and Green Efforts



Large heads of cauliflower, cabbages, bags of tangerines and boxes of bananas were among the groceries distributed on 25 November 2023 at Blk 635C Senja Road.

Members of Zhenghua Youth Network and Zhenghua CC Indian Activity Executive Committee (IAEC) teamed up with resident organisations such as the Residents' Networks, and is supported by Zhenghua CCC Green Pillar, to give out free produce to residents.

The Zhenghua Food Rescue initiative, which has been running since September 2022, has been active in the area to help residents appreciate the importance of reducing food wastage.

Representing the Zhenghua Youth Network at the event, Mr Arunraj Chidambaram, said: "We aim to rescue food from being wasted and, at the same time, raise greater awareness at Zhenghua about food sustainability and how everyone, from retailers to residents, can play a part in mitigating waste."

"This is part of a broader commitment by the Zhenghua community to sustainability and community."

Singaporeans have been affected by rising prices, with worldwide inflation hitting record levels. Core inflation was at 3.3 per cent in December, excluding costs of private transport and accommodation.

Mdm Valerie Ng, who was among the beneficiaries of the initiative, said her family of three has had

to spend less on groceries, and more on other household needs.

The 56-year-old added: "Things are very expensive now, so this helps."

Mdm Soh Teng Hua from Zhenghua CCC, who assists the weekly sessions for the initiative, said all residents in the estate are eligible for free groceries.

The initiative not only helps lessen cost-of-living pressures but also allows us to get to know residents better.

Mdm Kalpana Jai from the IAEC said that over time, the distribution drive has become like a kampong activity because residents turn up early for chats and sometimes even entertainment.

**"We want to create more platforms like this to allow residents to understand local food security and to interact socially."**





# Wayfinding a Vibrant Zhenghua



A pilot wayfinding project in Zhenghua enhanced the neighbourhood's navigation experience. MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC (Zhenghua), Mr Edward Chia, engaged LASALLE students for this community design endeavour. Delighted to involve students from the School of Spatial and Product Design, LASALLE lecturer Mr Eugene Lee said, "Students can experience first-hand how their design can improve the lives of residents!"

Through the project, students incorporated feedback and addressed practical concerns from diverse stakeholders. Every decision underwent careful scrutiny to balance aesthetic appeal with effectiveness. Emphasising community and inclusivity, students meticulously selected design elements that resonated with residents of all backgrounds. Typography choices were similarly thoughtful. Friendly and clear fonts were selected and validated through rigorous on-site testing.

Ultimately, Geometry by Joseph Kiran Hanson and Lin Guanyu and Nature's Footsteps by Iffah Fatini Binte Salehuddin, Pyae Phyo Thu and Chen Siyi were implemented. As installations took shape, residents commented on the enhanced vibrancy and wayfinding. "It was heartening to hear good feedback from residents," Mr Lee shared.

The wayfinding project exemplifies the potential of collaborative design in reimagining urban spaces. It charted the physical landscapes of Zhenghua and a course towards a more vibrant and inclusive community.



## National Day

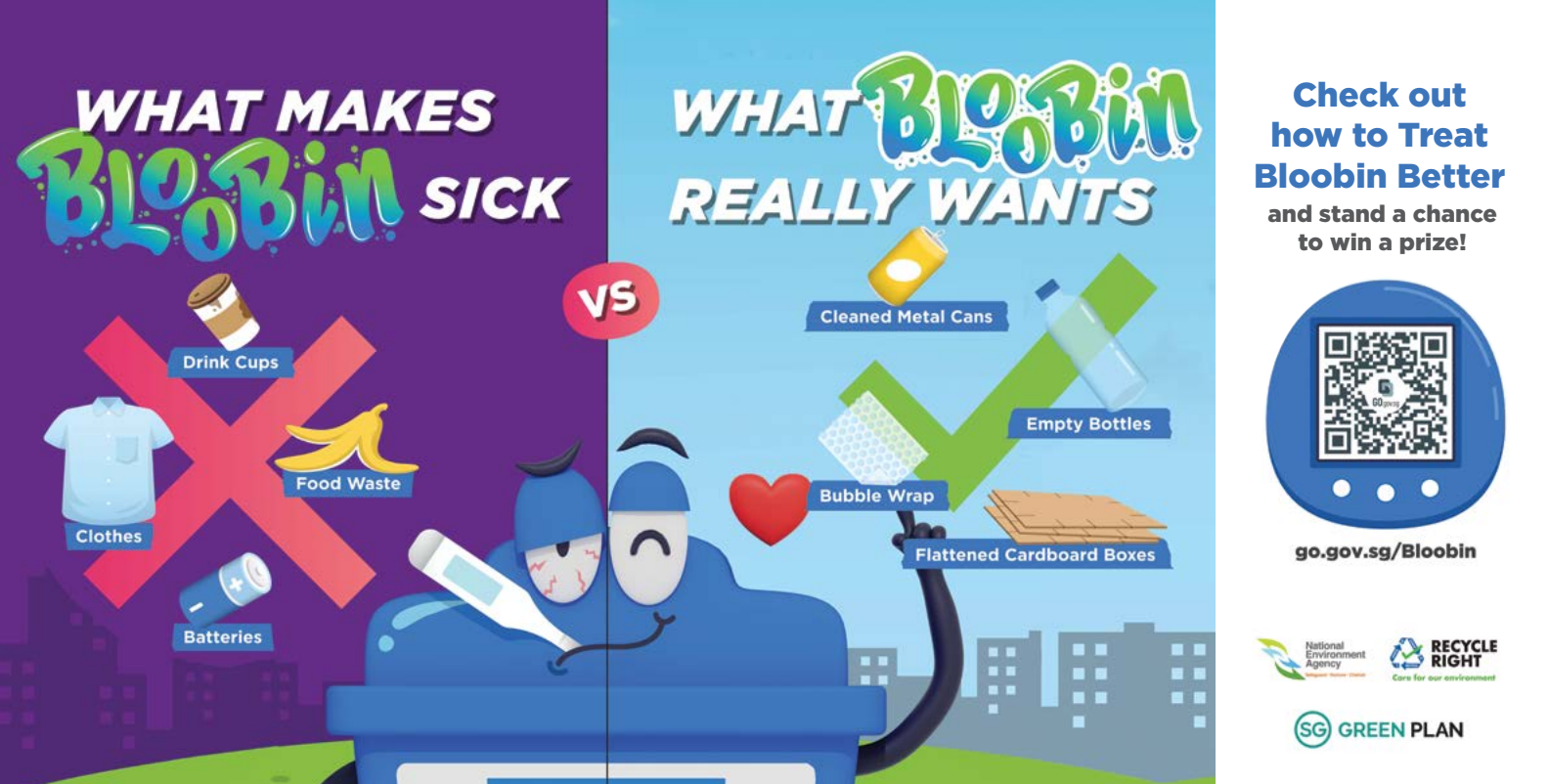
## Awardees

**Mr Bobby Chng  
Yew Huat, BBM**

*Member, Bukit Panjang CCC*

**Mdm Norazizah Bte  
Mohd Tajudin, BBM**

*Chairperson, Bukit Panjang CC MAEC*



## BOUQUETS

Dear Mr Liang, I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your prompt and decisive action in addressing the environmental concerns brought to your attention. Your commitment to our well-being and dedication to creating a cleaner, better environment for all is truly commendable.

Recent steps taken by your office and the Town Council to tackle environmental challenges immediately have had significant impact. Your initiative, coupled with your inclusive leadership style, has definitely fostered a sense of unity and progress within our community. It is inspiring to witness your efforts to engage with the residents and listen to their concerns.

By taking immediate action on environmental issues raised, you have demonstrated your genuine commitment to the welfare of our constituents. Your responsiveness has not only alleviated our concerns but has also instilled a renewed sense of hope and confidence in our community's future.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my appreciation to members of the Town Council for their swift action and collaborative efforts. The cohesive approach exhibited by the Council, under your guidance, has been instrumental in achieving positive outcomes for our environment.

By embracing feedback as a valuable gift, hopefully, together, we can enhance the cleanliness and tidiness of the void deck, benefiting our residents. This improvement will reflect tremendously on your exceptional leadership as the MP for Bukit Panjang.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering commitment to creating a cleaner, better environment.



- Masshita Amjah

Property Officer Mr Mohammad Hafiq is the epitome of town council service excellence!

Last Saturday, I reported my concern to the Town Council about a sprawling fern that had grown on the unit ledge above my elderly parents' unit. I was met with a pleasant lady staff who was ready to listen and serve. She understood my worry that the fern could be a breeding ground for dengue mosquitoes.

On Monday, Mr Hafiq telephoned to inform me that the fern would be removed the next day as workers were unavailable that day. On Tuesday morning, he updated me that a visit had been paid to the unit, but no one was at home. I am impressed that he even paid a visit to my parent's house to have a look at the fern. In the afternoon, he called me again to share the good news that the fern had been removed.

Mr Hafiq is outstanding in responding to a concerned resident's request on many levels. Firstly, he is prompt to act on feedback. He recognises the urgency of preventing breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Secondly, he is empathic and friendly. In our conversations, when I thanked him for his good service, he would reply that it was his duty.

A big thank you to Mr Hafiq!

- Lee Siew Hong

We would like to say a big thank you for Mr Liang's leadership and guidance and the Town Council's efforts and dedication. In the recent Home Improvement Programme (HIP) at Toh Yi, Mr Ong and Mr Ali were very responsive and helpful in addressing our requests. I appreciate it very much, and thank you again for your great work!

- Mdm Han