

CB(1)1979/07-08(01)

Hong Kong, 18 June, 2008

Chair and members of the Panel on Economic Development, Legislative Council Legislative Council Building, 8 Jackson Road, Central, Hong Kong (Fax: 2869-6794 / email: panel_edev@legco.gov.hk; Ms Connie SZETO)

Response to proposal for Development of a Piazza in Tsimshatsui CB(1) 1927/07-08(01)

1. We call for the early conversion of the PTI outside the TST Star Ferry Pier into a pedestrian precinct.

As the competition and decisions over funding and management take time, we urge to immediately convert the PTI into a simple pedestrian precinct under the highways department, and managed by the LCSD. Temporary bazaars and other activities can be permitted as agreed with the District Council.

2. Limit the building height and size to a one storey pavilion

The structure for the kiosk (f&b, tourist info, public convenience) should be comparable with the restaurant in Hong Kong Park. Building height should be limited to <u>one storey and not higher than 5 m</u>.

3. The design of the piazza should be in harmony with the Cultural Centre Piazza.

4. Management - Balance the private sector and LCSD involvement

Private sector involvement should be limited to the operation of the kiosk and any outside seating accommodation only. Recent debate has proven that public rights are unduly restricted in space or passage over private land or when large public facilities are managed by the private sector.

The piazza should be placed under the Highways Department as a pedestrian precinct. The role of the LCSD can be limited to managing certain aspects of the piazza (cleansing, safety) only. A precedent for this model is the dog park in Wanchai. By doing so we avoid invoking the pleasure ground legislation as this has proven to be unsuitable for promenades/piazzas where public rights should be similar as for public sidewalks/pavements.

Herewith we so submit for your urgent consideration,

Yours sincerely,

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