

“Facelift of Mui Wo” --- Land Use Concept Plans

1. Background

“Facelift of Mui Wo” was proposed under the Concept Plan for Lantau by the Government back in late 2004 with an aim to enhance the recreational potential of the area. The Mui Wo Rural Committee, the Islands District Council and the local community expressed support to the proposal and offered many comments on future development of Mui Wo. Taking into account the comments received and the natural, economic, geographic and planning situations of the area, the Government has formulated the land use concept plans for “Facelift of Mui Wo” for further public consultation.

2. The Concept and Planning Objective of “Leisure Historic Rural Township”

Mui Wo is a historic township endowed with rich cultural heritages and unique features such as watch towers and the Silvermine Cave. To capture this special character and endowment of the area, a concept of “leisure historic rural township” is proposed as the central theme for the facelifting proposals. The planning objective of the “leisure historic rural township” is to create a delightful and relaxing place for local residents and visitors to enjoy the natural beauties and the rustic culture of the area on foot or by cycle. The rural character of the area would be retained and enriched with a new face. There are a number of proposals for early implementation in the short or medium term, including enhancement of the waterfront and the streetscape of the Old Town, as well as provision of a continuous cycle track and heritage trail to connect scattered points of interest in the Mui Wo hinterland. In the long term, more recreational facilities such as marina and watersports centre are proposed to help establish Mui Wo as a leisure centre for holiday makers.

3. Major Facelifting Proposals

Mui Wo Old Town (Plan 2)

3.1 Beautification of Mui Wo Old Town

The existing Old Town would be retained and enriched with traditional style streetlights and paving. The improvement of streetscape would cover Mui Wo

Rural Committee Road, Mui Wo Chung Hau Street and the neighbouring streets.

3.2 Enhancement of Mui Wo Town Square

The existing Mui Wo Town Square would be extended to cover the part of River Silver Garden next to the Silvermine Bay Beach. A section of Ngan Shek Street would thus be closed and additional loading and unloading bays would be provided. The extended Town Square would provide a venue for multi-purpose uses such as alfresco dining, flea market, festival performances or local events, alongside with shops and sitting out areas with lush tree planting, to add vibrancy to the Square. The eastern portion of the Town Square would be specially designed as a landmark entrance to the Square and the Mui Wo Old Town.

Area near the Ferry Pier (Entrance Plaza and Waterfront Promenade) (Plan 3)

3.3 Pier Entrance Plaza

A pier entrance plaza is proposed outside the Mui Wo Ferry Pier, occupying part of the existing public transport interchange and cycle parking area. Sitting out areas, visitor facilities including information kiosk and small shops, and a venue for gathering and special events could be incorporated in the design to create a plaza with vibrancy and attractiveness.

3.4 Reprovision of Cooked Food Stalls & Creation of Boardwalk

The existing double-row cooked food stalls would be redeveloped into single-row restaurants to optimise on the sea view and to create opportunity for alfresco dining or open-air café. A boardwalk cantilevered over the existing seawall is proposed along the waterfront linking up the entrance plaza and Mui Wo Town Square. The wooden boardwalk will provide a pleasant walking experience to both the local residents and the visitors.

3.5 Waterfront Promenade

A continuous waterfront promenade is proposed at the immediate south of the Ferry Pier along the seawall and to replace the existing cargo loading and unloading area. New cafés with open-air seating would be created and complemented with proposed recreation facilities, walkway and cycle track. The

large tree near the Mui Wo Centre would be retained as a local landmark. More tree plantings and more shaded seating would be provided.

Cycle Track and Heritage Trail (Plan 1)

3.6 Cycle Track

A standard and continuous cycle track is proposed to connect the Mui Wo hinterland with the waterfront routing through various villages and points of interest. It would also link up with the existing mountain bike network in southern Mui Wo which leads to Pui O and South Lantau.

3.7 Heritage Trail

A heritage trail is proposed to connect the Old Town and Pak Ngan Heung, Silvermine Cave and Silvermine Bay Waterfall. A southern loop would reach Tai Tei Tong and Luk Tei Tong. A section is proposed for energetic visitors to go up to the Butterfly Hill, visit the proposed pavilion and enjoy a panoramic view of Mui Wo. The ending points of the trail link to various countryside walks to Tai Ho, Discovery Bay and Lantau Trail. New signage, information boards, resting places, shelters, public conveniences and other visitor facilities would be provided along the trail.

4. Other Associated Land Use Restructuring at South Mui Wo (Plan 3)

4.1 The Fringe Area of the Mui Wo Ferry Pier

The existing public transport interchange together with the taxi stands and pickup/drop off area would be moved to a nearby location slightly west to its original site. A covered walkway is proposed to connect it with the Ferry Pier to provide a weatherproof walking environment to the users. The existing car park would be reprovided at a site to the west of the existing secondary school. The cycle parking area would be relocated to the back of the reprovided food stalls to enhance the visual quality of the waterfront.

4.2 Southern Mui Wo

The existing cargo loading and unloading area and the lorry park to the east of Sea

Crest Terrace would be relocated to the area accommodating a temporary cement plant in southern Mui Wo to make room for the proposed promenade. General vehicular traffic will be forbidden from entering a section of Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road at the waterfront outside Sea Crest Terrace. The section of road would be converted to an emergency vehicle access and cycle track. A bypass around the northwest corner of the existing secondary school is proposed to open up a direct road connection for goods vehicle traffic from the Ferry Pier to southern Mui Wo.

5. Long Term Proposals (Plan 1)

In order to enhance the recreational potential of Mui Wo, some long term proposals could be considered which include a marina and watersports centre, a botanical garden and nature education centre, a local galley at Yuen's Family Compound and reopening of the Silvermine Cave. These proposals are preliminary only and subject to further feasibility studies.

Plans

- Plan 1 Facelift of Mui Wo – Land Use Concept Plan
- Plan 2 Facelift of Mui Wo Old Town –Land Use Concept Plan
- Plan 3 Facelift of the Area near Mui Wo Ferry Pier –Land Use Concept Plan

**Sai Kung & Islands District Planning Office
Planning Department
October 2006**