

MIKE SHARROCKS CONSULTANCY

Tourism Feasibility • Development Planning • Urban Design • Urban Regeneration • Environmental Appraisal

Hong Kong

STUDY ON IMPROVEMENTS AND UPGRADING FOR THE LEI YUE MUN VILLAGE AREA

For the Hong Kong SAR Planning Department, 1999

The study was commissioned in April 1999 to look at the possibilities for village improvements and upgrading in the Lei Yue Mun area, East Kowloon. The multi-disciplinary team of consultants was led by ERM. Mike Sharrocks was the project manager, town planner and urban designer for the project and undertook this input for the planning sub-consultants on the team. The purpose of the project was to assess the prospects for improvements in the study area both in the short and long term. The long-term scenario had to adopt a major piece of road infrastructure, the Western Coast Road (WCR), as a fix that was programmed for completion in 2006.

The study took into account a range of potential improvements, from open space provision and small-scale infrastructure works for the village area to more substantial and long-term possibilities for change. These included providing more attractions and facilities for this important tourism and leisure destination.

Study recommendations that would contribute to improvements included accommodating additional facilities and attractions on the proposed reclamation area for the WCR, better use of the village waterfront, cleaning up the typhoon shelter, upgrading the drainage and sanitary conditions in the village area, and a more imaginative use of the open space on the Lei Yue Mun headland which overlooked the eastern entrance to Victoria Harbour. Possibilities for change had to take into account the traditional character of the village, in terms of its potential as a tourism attraction, and also the needs of its inhabitants. A public consultation programme was therefore a significant part of the study.

Mike Sharrocks co-ordinated the inputs for the first baseline report, and then prepared three options for improvements to the study area. These were used for the public consultation forums and at a Value Management Workshop where attendees, drawn from organisations and groups with an interest in the area, selected the Preferred Option.

Following an environmental impact assessment of the Preferred Option, detailed plans were prepared and co-ordinated by Mike Sharrocks to include the Recommended Outline Development Plan (1:2500) and Layout Plans/Planning Briefs (1:1000). In addition, an Alternative Preferred Option was prepared which assessed the prospects for improvement without the proposed WCR. An implementation and funding programme was also outlined.



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