



City of Westminster

Chinatown Street Improvements



CONSULTATION CHINATOWN

Shaftesbury PLC

倫敦華埠商會
(諮詢協會)

LONDON CHINATOWN CHINESE ASSOCIATION



foreword



from top left to right

Councillor Colin Barrow Westminster City Council

Tom Welton Director, Shaftesbury PLC

Chu-Ting Tang President, London Chinatown Chinese Association

Christine Yau Chairman, Chinatown Steering Group



The traffic and environmental improvements proposed here signal an important step in what has been an outstanding example of collaboration between public, private and voluntary bodies. The Chinatown Action Plan has set a framework to make this area cleaner, safer, more attractive, culturally vibrant, and better managed. Westminster will be working with local stakeholders, especially Transport for London, to secure funding for this scheme.

Councillor Colin Barrow

Westminster City Council

Shaftesbury is committed to long-term investment in Chinatown and we pride ourselves on our understanding of the social and economic forces which make Chinatown successful.

We welcome the Chinatown Street Improvements consultation document and are particularly encouraged by the section that deals with Gerrard Street, its resurfacing being a key objective of the Chinatown Action Plan. We would welcome a detailed design as the next step in the process and will do all we can to assist the City Council in moving this project forward. Improving Gerrard Street will allow us, Westminster, and others to invest in the further enhancement of Chinatown, so we look forward to proposals that might see work commence during 2005.

Tom Welton

Director, Shaftesbury PLC

The joint Chinatown Action Plan set a unifying vision for Chinatown. Despite negative publicity, a wider tourist and economic downturn, the pressures of the night time economy, and competing commercial interests, the partners will push on to continue to deliver the many proposals in the Chinatown Action Plan and make sure that Chinatown will survive and prosper. I am therefore delighted to welcome this consultation to improve Chinatown's streets.

Chu-Ting Tang

President, London Chinatown Chinese Association

As Chair of the Chinatown Steering Group, the group of local stakeholders guiding the work of the Chinatown Action Plan, I am very confident that the progress made will continue and that the proposed street improvements will make Chinatown a better place for everybody.

Christine Yau

Chairman, Chinatown Steering Group

introduction

Chinatown lies in the heart of the West End, between Soho, Leicester Square, Piccadilly Circus and Covent Garden. Chinese communities began to settle here in the 1950s, and in the early 1980s Chinatown was redesigned with new street furniture and partly pedestrianised. Twenty years on, the streets are showing signs of wear. In recent years the local economy has suffered some negative publicity, a wider tourist and economic downturn, and the pressures of the night time economy.

An Action Plan was drawn up jointly by local stakeholders and published in September 2003 to address these issues. Many actions have been undertaken, including the introduction of City Guardians and the CivicWatch initiative, tailored cleansing services and a special car park discount scheme. The Action Plan has brought many benefits to those who visit, live or work in Chinatown.

The next stage of the Plan involves physical improvements to the area's streets, including new paving in some areas and better facilities for pedestrians. These will require a significant financial commitment, and funding is being sought from public and private sector sources to begin these works. We are seeking your opinion on these proposals, and with your support, will work to deliver these in order of priority.

介紹及項目發展跟進

由倫敦華埠商會，華人社區中心，警察，西敏市及莎士比利公司攜手合作，積極推動‘唐人街行動’計劃以來，數項計劃及服務經已進行中，改善唐人街形象，治安及清潔。包括增設城市守衛，舉辦廚師大賽，增設照明設備及停車場泊車優惠等。

進入計劃第二階段，將致力改善唐人街的外觀，包括地面重鋪及改善行人道設施，但亦使各商戶有正常的運輸工作。各項計劃經費，將會從公營公司及私營公司集資發展。我們希望獲得閣下之意見和支持，令各項工程可盡快進行。



above Existing view of current junction at Little Newport Street and Leicester Court

below Artist's impression after improvements



problems

The streets of Chinatown are subject to continuous stress. The area is a major visitor destination in its own right, as well as a major thoroughfare between neighbouring districts. In a regular week, over 60,000 pedestrians traverse Gerrard Street and Newport Place. Chinatown's supermarkets and restaurants require a large volume of deliveries and a specialised cleansing and waste collection regime. Chinatown also houses a busy car park, a cleansing depot and hosts several major events over the course of the year.

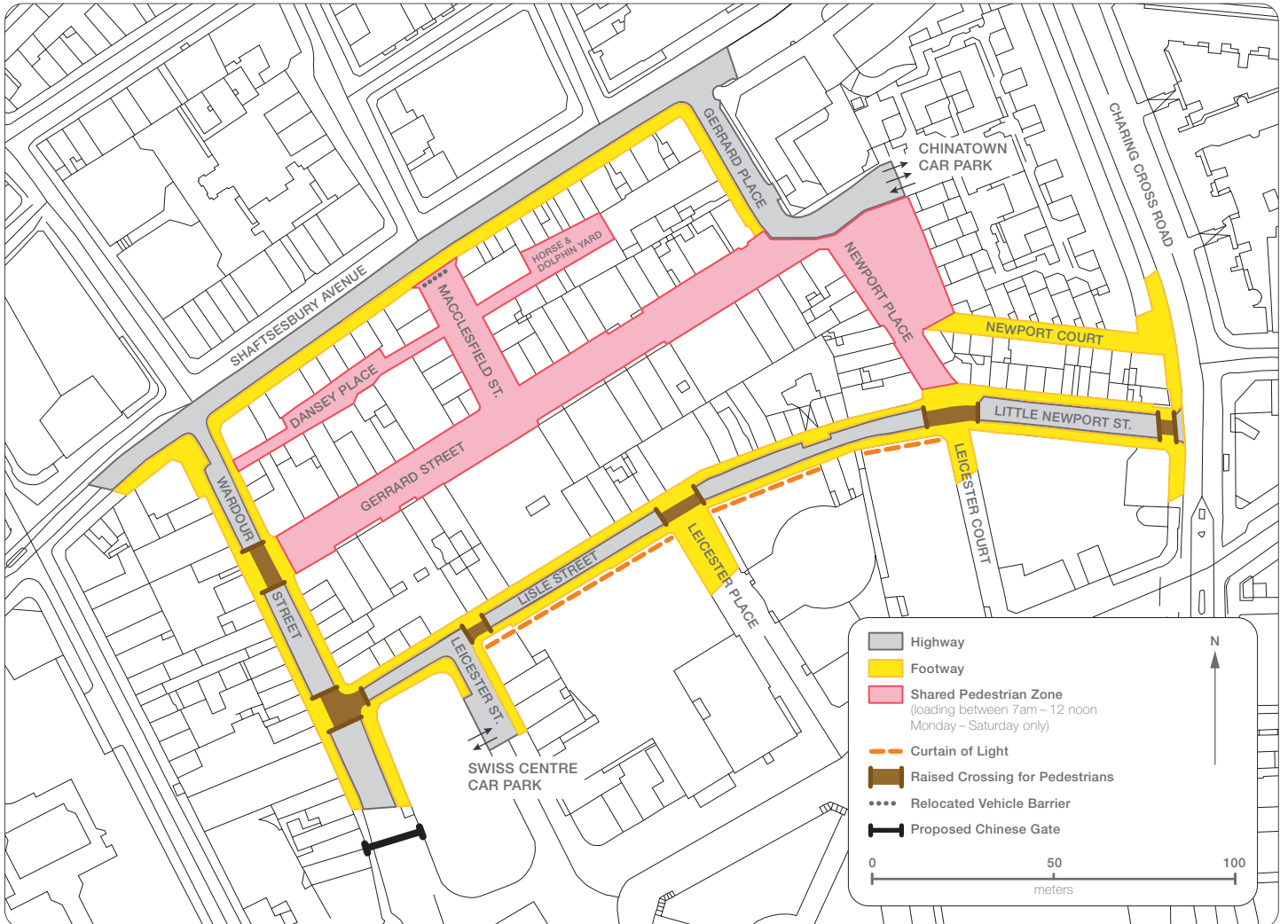
Such intensive use of the space has resulted in the wear of existing paving materials and the need to upgrade secondary streets to take some pressure off main streets. The general amenity for pedestrians is poor. Particular problem areas include Gerrard Street, which needs resurfacing, and Lisle Street, which suffers from narrow, congested pavements. Here pedestrians fight their way past stationary and 'rat-running' vehicles and face a wall of unwelcoming backs of cinemas. Newport Place has potential to be a public square, but conflicts between cars and pedestrians currently make achieving this difficult. We aim to upgrade the local environment and create a harmonious balance between the competing uses.



above right Lisle Street is often congested and difficult for pedestrians to negotiate

centre right The pavement in Gerrard Street is in urgent need of replacing

below Plan showing proposed improvements to the street layout around Chinatown



the proposals

To improve the streets of Chinatown, the City Council, along with Shaftesbury PLC and the London Chinatown Chinese Association are considering a range of proposals:

Lisle Street / Little Newport Street

> It is proposed that Lisle Street and Little Newport Street become a pedestrian-only area on Sundays, Chinatown's busiest day and a traditional day for family dimsum. In such a proposal the entrance from Charing Cross Road to Little Newport Street would be blocked on Sundays between 10am and 6pm to all except emergency vehicles. To allow this, 4 resident parking bays on Lisle Street would be removed, and replaced by 2 bays on Wardour Street. 2 meter parking bays would also be removed.

> On Sundays two-way working would only be allowed on Lisle Street between Wardour Street and Leicester Street to access the underground car park at the Swiss Centre.

> To improve pedestrian crossing facilities the northern footway of Lisle Street between Leicester Place and Newport Place could be widened. Raised entry treatments would be installed near the junction of Little Newport Street with Charing Cross Road, and at the junctions of Lisle Street with Leicester Street, Leicester Place and Leicester Court.

> As suggested by the Chinatown Action Plan, a creative lighting scheme would be installed to brighten the Cinema wall frontages and enhance the functional lighting installed recently.

Gerrard Street

> We propose to replace the existing pavement on Gerrard Street commensurate with its importance at the centre of Chinatown. It is suggested that appropriate paving materials be chosen based on their ability to withstand servicing and cleansing pressures. The palette of materials that have worn well in Newport Place could be considered. Also, existing street furniture could be reduced to minimise clutter and new street furniture could be looked at.

Macclesfield Street, Horse and Dolphin Yard & Dansey Place

> The restrictions applying to the south side of Macclesfield Street could be extended north, to make the whole street pedestrian friendly. The vehicular barrier in the centre of the Street would then be moved to its junction with Shaftesbury Avenue, and the street repaved. Servicing would be restricted to between 7am and 12 noon, Monday to Saturday for Macclesfield Street, Horse and Dolphin Yard and Dansey Place.

> Shaftesbury PLC are seeking to redevelop Horse and Dolphin Yard, creating a speciality retailing courtyard at ground level and contributing to enhancements in the surrounding area.

Wardour Street

> The footway on the east side of Wardour Street, north of Lisle Street is proposed to be widened, making it easier and safer to walk between Gerrard Street, Lisle Street and Shaftesbury Avenue. A raised entry treatment could be installed at the Gerrard Street/Wardour Street junction and at the crossing points at Lisle Street/Wardour Street and at Dansey Place.



above Example of raised crossing for pedestrians

centre left Example of the proposed 'curtain of light' in Lisle Street

centre right Example of the proposed additional Chinese gate on Wardour Street

below left Materials in Newport Place have worn well and could be used in other parts of Chinatown

below right Example of a wall mounted light proposed for Chinatown

Chinese Arch

> To help signpost Chinatown and create additional cultural interest, the City Council, with the local community and the Chinese Embassy, are seeking to design and build a new traditional Chinese gate to complement the existing gates. The preferred location is on south Wardour Street, opposite the Swiss Centre. Further design and engineering work will need to be commissioned to determine the exact location and specifications for the work. It is intended that the arch will be designed and manufactured in Beijing.

Public Art Projects

> A range of public art projects will be pursued, with the aim of improving the overall appearance and visibility of Chinatown, particularly in spaces such as Horse and Dolphin Yard, the rear of Cinemas along Lisle Street and the Fire Station Wall.

The proposals being considered are:

> A 'curtain of light' in Lisle Street.

> Fire Station wall projections.

> Sculptural commissions and a screen for the display of artwork in Horse and Dolphin Yard.

Lighting

> Where possible, lighting and signs across Chinatown could be relocated to buildings to reduce street clutter.

long term proposals

We also have some ideas for longer-term street improvements, which will depend on funding, possible private sector investment and/or the redevelopment of key sites.

Lisle Street / Little Newport Street

> Eastbound traffic could be removed from Little Newport Street, allowing footway widening on the north side of the street.

> East of Leicester Street, Lisle Street could become a pedestrian-only zone, with vehicular servicing restricted to between 7am and 12 noon, Monday to Saturday.

> Depending on any future redevelopment of the Swiss Centre, west of Lisle Street could also be considered for a pedestrian-only zone, with servicing restrictions in line with the eastern side of the street.

Newport Place / Gerrard Place

> South of Newport Court, Newport Place could become pedestrian priority, with two-way working introduced on Gerrard Place.

> Even longer term, it may be possible to relocate the entry of the Chinatown Car Park and cleansing depot from Newport Place onto Shaftesbury Avenue, hence allowing the full pedestrianisation of Newport Place into an attractive public square, incorporating the Chinese pagoda. Gerrard Place could then be converted to a one-way northbound street only, with access for servicing vehicles between the hours of 7am and 12 noon.

Leicester Place, Leicester Court and Leicester Street

> As a direct pedestrian route between Chinatown and Leicester Square, Leicester Court could be improved to create a friendlier pedestrian environment. Leicester Street could become part of a pedestrian priority area, subject to the long-term closure of the Swiss Centre Car Park. Also, Leicester Place could become one-way southbound, with access for servicing vehicles only.

各項改善項目包括

把儂人街及小新港街於星期日列為行人專門區。改善各交匯點的出入口。重鋪爵祿街路面。擴充及善用麥高田街及莎士比利大道之間的行人區。莎士比亞公司計劃重建馬海豚圍為‘特別零售市場’。把華都街以東，爵祿街與莎士比利大道的行人區加寬，加強儂人街和爵祿街的出入方便通道。為使‘唐人街’位置更顯注，文化色彩更濃厚，西敏市，倫敦商埠商會及中國領事館計劃在華都街以南位置，建設新傳統中國牌樓。為使改善唐人街形象及外觀，特別是馬海豚圍，將推展一連串文化活動及計劃，美化儂人街戲院後門黑牆及消防局的外牆。重新加設掛牆照明系統和指示牌，令唐人街街道規劃更見整齊，減低雜亂及堆塞。長遠發展，計劃把儂人街開闢為行人專用區，就如爵祿街一樣，車輛出入時段為早上7時至中午12時。在未來計劃，可能計劃把在唐人街內的停車場及垃圾場的出入口，由原來的位置（新港坊）轉移至莎士比利大道。使新港坊成為行人專用區。

the consultation process

We value your opinions on our proposals, so please send us your comments by 3 March. You can do this by:

> filling out the freepost postcard provided with this leaflet

> going online at www.westminster.gov.uk

> post to
West End Team
Westminster City Hall
FREEPOST LON17652
LONDON
SW1E 6YY

If you prefer to speak to someone directly, require more information about the proposals, or would like to find out more about the Chinatown Action Plan please call: the West End Team on **020 7641 7061**.

We will be holding a public exhibition of the proposals at the Chinese Community Centre in the first two weeks of February, at the Charing Cross Library in the third week of February, and at City Hall in the last week of February.

如閣下欲想以英語或廣東話與西區部門直接聯絡，可致電 **020 7641 7061**
或 **077 9351 6059**

